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FOCUS ON FAMINE

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Canadian
Katherine Clark
on the situation
in Nigeria,
metroNEWS

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2017

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RIGHT ON THE BUTTON

Alberta costume designers share the philosophy that got them nominated for film and TV awards
metroNEWS

Carol Case was nominated for a Rosie award for her work on Hell on Wheels. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Candidates get cautious about secondary suites

MAYORAL ELECTION

Only Hughes says to let folks do 'whatever the hell' they want



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Cutting red tape. It's something the conservative-minded candidates for mayor all seem to agree on — except when it comes to secondary suites.

Four of the candidates were at the University of Calgary for a forum held by the graduate students association Thursday.

While all candidates were invited, the four able to attend happened to be right-leaning. The answer to several questions throughout the forum was for government to get out of the way.

However, on the issue of secondary suites, three of the candidates were cautious, saying at

least a little red tape is needed.

Coun. Andre Chabot said he'd like to see an option where communities can choose block-by-block with a two-thirds majority.

"You'll ensure you still have the right for single-family residential zones to still have that sort of community," he said.

Shawn Baldwin said he doesn't see a blanket solution working either. He'd like to see a simplified application process.

"We need a single point of contact," he said.

David Lapp, who was most vocal about cutting red tape, was more nuanced on suites.

"I'm not sure a blanket approval is an appropriate thing," he said, noting the concerns of neighbours need to be weighed.

Paul Hughes was the lone dissenter. He said the only thing that matters is ensuring suites are safe and up to code.

"If you want to do something with your home and you paid for that home, then you do whatever the hell it is you want," he said.


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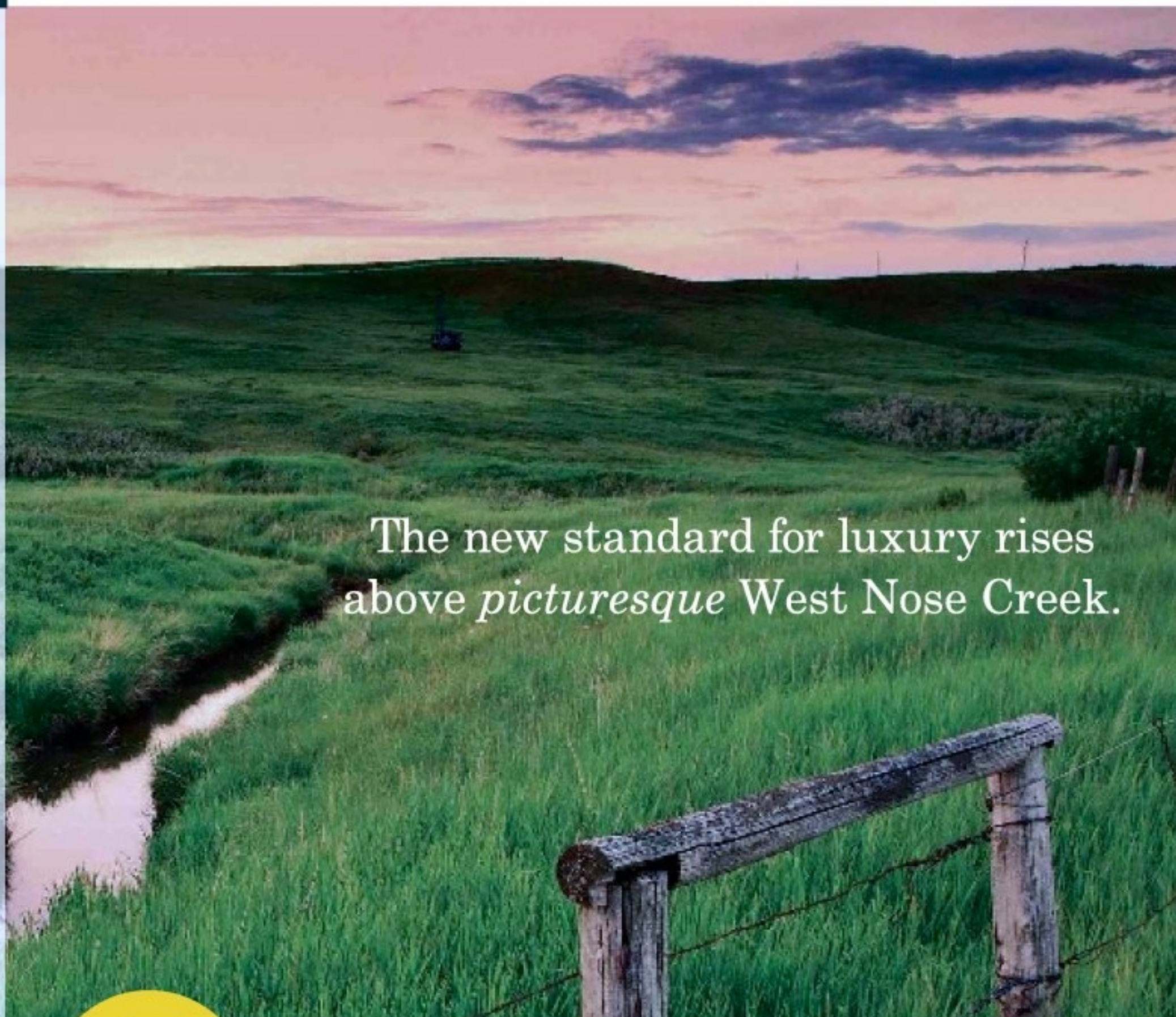
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Hyperloop startup scouts Alberta for testing track

TRANSPORTATION

TransPod executive lured to Alberta by local engineers



Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

A Toronto-based start up that wants to build hyperloop technology will be scouting out Alberta in April as a potential development site for its research and development.

TransPod already has the backing of investors to the tune of \$20 million, and partnerships with rail, aerospace and architecture companies.

Its CEO, Sebastian Gendron, said the company's goal is to develop both transportation pod and tube technology from the ground up, so that it can be marketed and installed worldwide.

The idea of hyperloop transportation involves passenger pods that move through low-pressure pipelines at jet-airliner speeds over medium-length distances — too far for cars but too short for air travel.

Several companies and universities have been racing to be first with the technology since the idea was floated by SpaceX and Tesla founder Elon



Toronto hyperloop startup TransPod is coming to Alberta to scout out potential business opportunities. This artist rendering shows a pod travelling through a hyperloop along the Edmonton-Calgary corridor. CONTRIBUTED

Musk in 2012.

Gendron said two University of Calgary alumni who have an interest in the technology talked him into coming to the province to look at its major cities and the corridor between them as a place to do business.

"They really shared with

"I was always thinking. 'Why is there no train?'"

Daniel Juck

me their motivation to bring that technology to the province and I said, 'Sure, I'm open to it if you're ready to take on the challenge. Let's do some initial business development work,'" he said.

Daniel Juck is one of the two who talked Gendron into

a visit. The former oil and gas engineer is working on his MBA at the University of Calgary, and ended up using the example of hyperloop technology for a class presentation.

"I travelled between Edmonton and Calgary due to my previous work," said Juck. "I was always thinking, 'Why is there no train?'"

His class project morphed into ongoing communication with Gendron, to the point where he and fellow engineer and hyperloop enthusiast Igor Avli set up the four-day tour.

The men say Gendron will be meeting with government officials at the municipal and provincial level, along with potential investors and university representatives, although they were not prepared to give specifics.

Gendron said his company's stated goal has been a hyperloop track between Toronto and Montreal, but he sees merit in an Edmonton-Calgary link as well.

"The two locations we're prospecting are Alberta and Ontario — but definitely the one that is showing the most amount of interest is Alberta," he said.

His immediate interest is in setting up a research and development facility, and a test track for the pods.

"I'm looking forward to come and see what we can do in Alberta," he said.

ECONOMY

Notley to see if Wall breached FTA rules

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says she is looking at whether Saskatchewan's Brad Wall is breaking regional free-trade rules by offering incentives for oil and gas firms to move to his province.

Notley says her government wants to see if Wall is breaching the New West Partnership Agreement between British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Wall's government has sent letters to Alberta oil and gas firms offering to subsidize relocation costs, trim taxes and royalties, and help find space in unused government buildings.

Notley says Wall's plan is short-sighted given how much Saskatchewan's economy relies on doing business in Alberta.

Wall says he is letting companies know about existing policies in Saskatchewan and he isn't offering a specific relocation program that would violate the spirit of the provincial trade agreement.

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IN BRIEF

City census begins online April 1

Login and be counted! Calgarians are invited to complete the annual census online as access codes will be mailed to city residences beginning today.

The codes can be used at calgary.ca/census to complete the census and also register to vote.

City census information is used by the city for planning purposes and by school boards to help predict future enrolments.

If residents aren't able to complete the census online, in-person census collection will start April 22.

City census data is available roughly three months after the census collection is complete. METRO

Small business confidence sees boost: CFIB

Like the signs of spring, signs of a slowly rebounding economy are popping up all over the place, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) released another one Thursday.

Alberta's small business confidence rose five and a half points to 55.5 in March.

It's the first time since January 2015 that the business barometer has tipped across the 50 threshold in favour of confidence.

Amber Ruddy, Alberta director for the CFIB said it feels like the worst is behind us as the province tries to recover from the crash of oil prices in late 2014.

Not everything in the CFIB's survey paints a rosy picture. Ruddy noted 30 per cent of businesses say their current state of business is bad. About 22 per cent of Alberta businesses are still expecting to do layoffs in the next 3 months while only 13 per cent are hiring. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO



Last year the CPA issued 2,800 tickets during the seven-week cleaning stint. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Cleanup crews to sweep through city

ROADS

Staff say this year's job will be a big one



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The city wants to sweep Calgarians off their feet this spring, but doing so requires some cooperation.

On Monday, crews will begin their annual street sweeping regime. And this year, because of an excess of grime on the roads, they will be sweeping seven days a week and doing night shifts

Monday through Thursday.

The typical spring clean-up has sweepers remove approximately 25,000 tonnes of material, which would fill up 130,000 waste recycle containers. But this year was a cold and snowy winter, and more gravel on the roads means the city will be picking up 54,000 tonnes.

"We put out twice as much material in this winter season than we did in the previous winter season," said road maintenance manager Bill Biensch. "We expect our spring clean-up will take a bit longer this year because of the amount of sanding material that will be out there."

Street cleaning signs and parking bans will dot across

communities 12 hours in advance where crews are working to make roads dust-free. Then, when crews arrive, they work closely with the Calgary Parking Authority to move any cars that could be an obstacle to their job.

Biensch said if cars are in the way, the sweepers have to go around them, and it's hard for the street to get cleaned that way.

"The issue is if people don't move their vehicles our equipment has to move in and out to try and catch the curb anywhere there are no vehicles parked," Biensch said. "It increases the time it takes for us to get the streets clean, and unfortunately the finished product is not there

because there's aggregates left underneath the vehicles."

Fines are set at \$120, but if you pay within 10 days that fee is reduced to \$80, or \$90 within 30 days.

"Areas where there's high density, they'll typically put out parking bans," said Kevin Bulmer, enforcement coordinator with the Calgary Parking Authority. "A lot of the outlying areas they don't do parking bans."

Last year the CPA issued 2,800 tickets during the seven-week cleaning stint. The city has 34 street sweepers, 20 are rentals. Information about where they will be is posted online at calgary.ca/sweep.

JOEY ENGLISH CASE

'We want justice'



Lucie Edmondson
Metro | Calgary

The mother of an Indigenous woman whose body parts were discovered in Crescent Heights in June 2016 said she's nervous heading into court Friday, where the man who dismembered and scattered her daughter's remains will be sentenced.

Joshua Weise was found guilty of offering indignity to human remains for dismembering and disposing of the remains of Joey English, 25, from the Pikani Nation in southern Alberta, after she died while at his home. He will learn his fate Friday.

Stephanie English, Joey's mother, said she's put out a call to friends and family to join her in the courtroom Friday.

"We want justice for my daughter Joey," she said.

Through her advocacy for justice for Joey, English said she hopes her grandchildren and future baby will learn that it's important to have a strong voice.

"To stand up for what is right and really educate them on unhealthy people, these predators," she said. "They may come in all different shapes, sizes and forms, but they need to have awareness. Being First Nations and women we are the number one target, so we need to protect ourselves."

English said as an Indigenous woman she's wary of what might happen, as history hasn't been kind to her people, or herself.

"These things have happened for many decades. I hope this is a stepping stone to really see a change for people of all walks of life — the justice system is failing the people of Alberta," she said.

English said she believes Weise should be locked up — and she's been frustrated to see him released (on bail in July) and walking the streets of Calgary while Joey cannot. "I will never have closure. My daughter's body parts are still in a landfill," she said.

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Saying goodbye to Calgary Zoo bridge

INFRASTRUCTURE

City crews to dismantle century-old structure



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The camelback bridge that connects Inglewood to the zoo has taken out its last pesky truck mirror.

Closed for good, city crews will slowly begin to lighten the load on the century-old bridge before destroying it completely, which historian John Gilpin told Metro is much like taking apart a Meccano set.

The bridge's history actually spans back to the 1880s before it was built. The town of Calgary was looking to snag St. George's Island and St. Patrick's Island from the federal government to turn them into parks. But they were on a long-

+ BRIDGE FACTS

■ The bridge was originally built for horse and buggy and is much narrower than the MacDonald Bridge and 9 Avenue Bridge both built around the same time. That's because there used to be a streetcar track on the wider bridges.

■ It's likely the bridge deck was originally made out of wood.

■ Communications between the engineers haven't survived, so historian John Gilpin said it's not clear why that bridge was designed taller than its cousins elsewhere in the city.

term lease.

Part of that deal was that the town had to spend \$100 a year improving that land, planting trees.

"They had a ferry in there

for a couple of years, but it got washed out," Gilpin said. "So, by the mid 1890s they were saying, 'Gee we're spending 100 a year on improving an island that no one can get to' so they negotiated an agreement with the federal government."

Instead of spending that \$100 a year, the town invested it, and the agreement was that once they had enough to build a bridge the island would be theirs to keep.

And in 1908 the bridge was built.

LJ Robertson is the Inglewood Community Association planner. For her, and the rest of the community, laying the bridge to rest isn't a joyous occasion — it's an end of an era.

"Most of the community's life, the bridge has been part of that," Robertson said. "Just the way it had to evolve from the horse and buggy ... it wasn't wide enough to accommodate some vehicles and there was just a treasure trove of broken off mirrors all the way along."

She laughed, noting the



Crews build a new bridge between St. George's Island and Inglewood as the old 12 Street SE bridge is prepared for demolition. HELEN PIKE/METRO

bridge itself was chronicling history, and of course reminding new-age Calgary where the community came from.

The community, which has been lucky to have three of the city's oldest bridges nearby, was hoping to keep the gateway as a pedestrian crossing. But after careful examination from the city, it's become clear that's not possible. The bridge is beyond repair — and that's a hard pill to swallow for the neighbourhood that prides itself on being the city's historic gem.

Robertson described herself

as having gone through all the stages of grief already, for a whole year, as the city's project to replace the ailing piece of infrastructure chugged along.

She and other members of the community aren't pleased with the new bridge design; it's much more understated than what they had in place, and isn't the entrance into the community that was hoped for. Robertson called it "terribly generic."

"The camelback stretcher is quite majestic, it serves as a visual gateway both onto the island and into Inglewood,"

Robertson said. "When you're driving by it you can't miss it ... we're hoping that can be reflected in the commemoration project."

But closure for the community might come in the form of a public art piece, and commemoration, laced into one. Artist Brandon Vickerd has been chosen for the task, and Robertson said he's currently asking residents about the bridge.

On April 22 the community will have a send-off for the 12 Street Bridge as the new lower profile bridge is being built next to it.

Calgary



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Seeking specifics in child welfare talks

OPPOSITION

Panellists cite frustration over inability to talk case details



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

There isn't a less partisan issue than that of childcare and keeping Alberta's children in government care safe, according to Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre MLA, Jason Nixon.

Which is why he and other members of the opposition participating in the Alberta government's child intervention panel are frustrated.

The panel was formed after government inaction in the case of four-year-old Serenity

was made public. Serenity died more than two years ago while in government kinship care.

Nixon said Thursday that the issue of keeping the province's children in government care safe is close to everyone's hearts, but he said panellists aren't able to talk about details of specific cases to find out where the problems exist in the system.

"We're all moms and dads and care about the kids in our community and at the core we

should be here as MLAs and panel members making sure it can't happen again," he said.

"But if you can't have the conversation about the details of what actually took place, how do you make sure you've put in steps that make sure it can't happen again?"

Nixon said his concern is that panellists will make good recommendations, but have "no way to show accountability" for their implementation.

"We may be talking about some things that are very valuable within the system that need to be fixed but aren't going to be able to put forward recommendations for the specific issues that got us here today," he said.

Danielle Larivee, Alberta minister of children's services, said the panel is currently in phase one — an eight- to 10-week review specifically focused on the child death review process.

"Really, the child death review process is quite process oriented in terms of who does the reviews, what does that process look like, how much duplication is there, who is involved in that, how does it respect the family, how does it respect the caregivers, what does it look like in terms of timing," she said.

Larivee said phase two will be looking at the root causes of the problems in the system.

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Mac Hall in summer 2015. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO FILE

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Agreement reached on MacEwan Hall



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

A bitter battle is turning sweet at the University of Calgary as school and Students' Union have worked on their relationship and forgotten their rocky past to come to an agreement on how MacEwan Hall should run.

The two parties recently signed a letter of intent detailing how the student centre will be operated as a legal battle over the building's formal ownership continues.

"This document is around our occupation of the building, our responsibility the University's responsibility in that new setting," said Branden Cave, current VP of operation and finance and the president-elect at the SU. "This is an interim measure and will

stay in place until there's a new agreement."

Before the legal hubbub, the school and SU had a Licence of Occupation and Management Agreement (LOOMA). But in 2015, the union set out to have their 55 per cent ownership acknowledged.

This resulted in discussions, which eventually broke down leading to a civil suit, which right now Cave said is in the exploratory phase.

Mac Hall, which used to be operated by students, fell back into the school's hands, but they vowed to run it just as the SU did, and keep operations as is.

"It's been really good that both sides have come to a better understanding of what the building is, and what it means to students," Cave said. "We can work together in situations like this."

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Roberta Segar



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Wyatt Anton and Sherri Smithson study for their Indigenous Language 205 course, which is teaching them to speak Stoney Nakoda, at the University of Calgary. ELIZABETH CAMERON/FOR METRO

Non-Indigenous students sign up

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Interest in Stoney Nakoda class surprises instructor



Elizabeth Cameron
For Metro | Calgary

The co-instructor of a new Stoney Nakoda language course at the University of Calgary said he was surprised most of the 25 students who signed up for the class are not Indigenous.

Trevor Fox, a doctoral student at U of C and co-instructor of the inaugural Indigenous Language 205 - Stoney Nakoda, said he welcomes them into his classroom.

"I'm just happy they're interested," said Fox, who is from the Wesley Band of the Stoney Nakoda First Nation.

Fourth-year international Indigenous studies student Sherri Smithson said as a non-Indigenous person, the class has been an eye-opening experience about Canada's less-than-glamorous history with First Nations.

"It gives you a whole new respect and understanding about these cultures that lived here before and continue to live with us now," Smithson said.

Fox said he has focused his linguistic lessons on the history and culture of the Stoney Nakoda (ȩyârhe Nakoda) people, many of whom live in southern Alberta.

"Our language and culture is tied to the land. If students



Wyatt Anton holds up a sign that says 'Calgary' in Stoney Nakoda at the University of Calgary's Native Centre on Wednesday. ELIZABETH CAMERON/FOR METRO

want to learn our language, then they also need to understand the knowledge behind it ... and why our language is at risk," Fox said.

He estimates approximately 1,500 people speak Stoney Nakoda in North America, and most of them are age 35 or older.

Students in Canadian residential schools were prohibited from speaking their native languages or practicing their culture, leaving generations of Indigenous children with no knowledge of their own people, according to Fox.

"This has really affected the survival of aboriginal languages — there aren't too many fluent

speakers," he said.

Wyatt Anton is in the second year of his thesis at U of C, which in part examines how traditional knowledge from the Treaty 7 nations can be transmitted and preserved for the future.

As a result, he spends a lot of time on the Morley Reserve, located west of Cochrane, and said learning the Stoney language has given him a deeper understanding of the people who speak it.

"There's a commonality that exists now that didn't before," Anton said. "When you're trying to communicate through a language you become much more aware of the circumstances of the native speakers."



It gives you a whole new respect and understanding about these cultures that lived here before and continue to live with us now.

Sherri Smithson

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Award-winning playwright Eugene Stickland wrote the play *First and Last* specifically for the current set of acting students at St. Mary's University in Calgary. COURTESY JOE-NORMAN SHAW

Students first to premiere new play

PERFORMANCE

Stickland creates piece for St. Mary's University



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

St. Mary's University in Calgary will be home to a rare world premiere this week — award-winning playwright Eugene Stickland has written his latest piece specifically for the students.

Stickland, winner of a Betty Mitchell Award, Governor General's Award and Alberta Playwriting Award, is currently the writer-in-residence at St. Mary's.

So, he wrote a play, *First and Last*, specifically for this year's batch of acting students — 10 women and five men, who will be the first ac-

tors in the world to perform the play.

"As someone who's worked with student actors for a long time, one of the most difficult things is finding a piece that fits the group that you have," said director Joe-Norman Shaw. "He wrote a play with exactly the number of roles — in terms of casting ... I think I probably did it in about 15 minutes."

The play follows a young musician who's just come back from tour to find his girlfriend has left him. He's distraught, he can't focus on writing new music, and to make matters worse, random people keep showing up on his doorstep — all claiming to have signed a lease on his apartment.

"It's got a lot of humour,

but it's also quite touching at times and also quite timely," Shaw explained. "There are a couple of characters who are refugees, people seeking sanctuary — people seeking a home for themselves."

It was huge boon to have the playwright on board for the first set of rehearsals, as Stickland could easily change dialogue on the fly to better suit the actors.

The show runs from March 30 to April 1, and will be joined

for some performances by The Quotidian Collective, a performance piece created by first year students.

Shaw hopes to remount the play later this year through the Company of Rogues studio in Calgary.

Find more information at www.stmu.ca.



It's got a lot of humour, but it's also quite touching at times and also quite timely.

Joe-Norman Shaw

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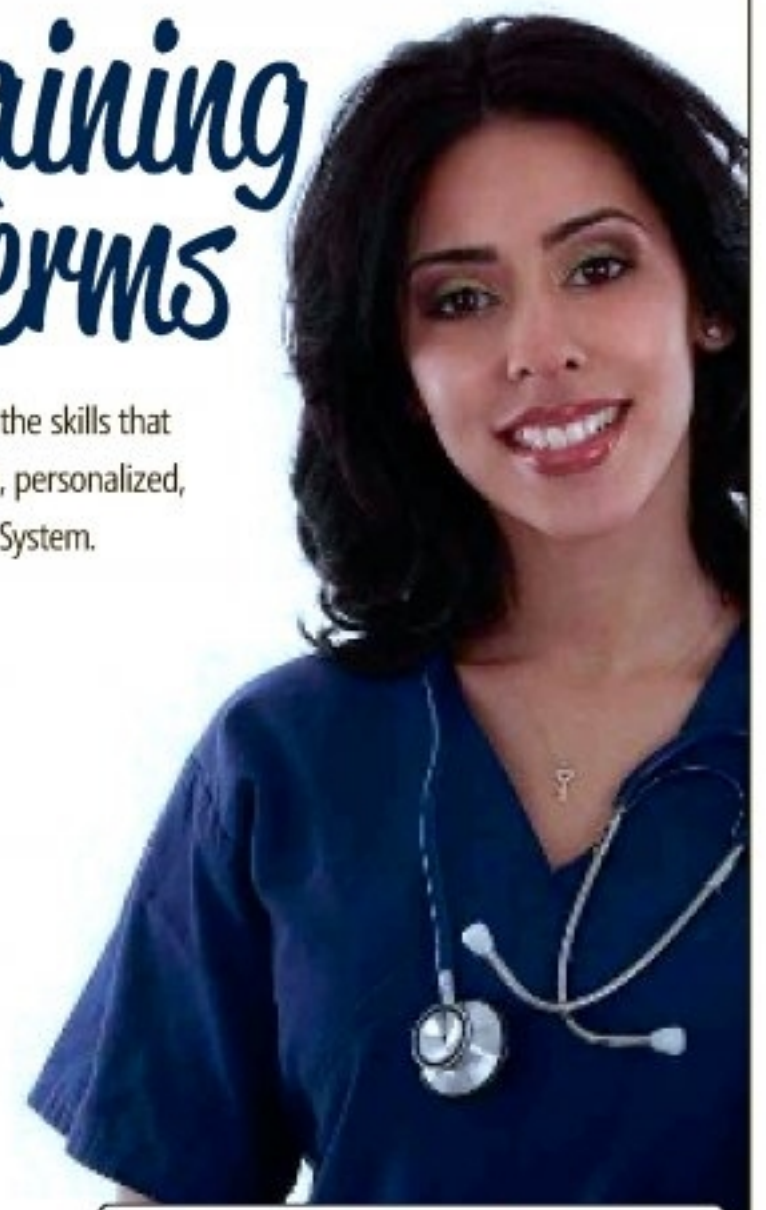
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Nathan Fillion has a long history in nerdy projects, making him a fan favourite guest at this year's Calgary Comic Expo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fillion on health care, haircuts

POP CULTURE

Firefly, Castle star flies into Calgary Comic Expo 2017



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Although he's played the lead on Castle for eight seasons, most geeks know Nathan Fillion as Captain Mal Reynolds on Firefly, or Captain Hammer in Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along-Blog, or maybe the voice of Hal Jordan in the animated Green Lantern movie.

He also cameos under blue makeup in Guardians of the Galaxy.

The Edmonton-native brings his major nerd-cred to Calgary Comic Expo April 27 to 30th.

How did growing up in Alberta mould you as a person and actor?

It's weird to talk about health care, but growing up in Canada, being sick or needing medical attention was never something that worried me. It was never part of our experience, as far as a basic human need and not being able to have it.

But here, that's a different reality. It's frightening and it affects people. It affects your state of calm and relaxation and trust — and I think it's scary.

Where we grew up? It was a very safe place to grow up. Is that weird?

It's not something I would of thought of — having lived in the States so long, how do you deal with that?

Well, you don't want to miss an insurance payment.

What upcoming project are you most excited for?

Right now — well, I should have asked if I'm allowed to talk about it. But, I'm heading off to Vancouver — I'm giving you a hint. I'm going to Vancouver, to do a little project with a friend of mine. I won't say who he is, but I've worked with him before, and it wasn't horrible.

Bringing things back to the past, what project has been the most fun to work on?

I sometimes get a little stink about this from fans of other projects, but, everything I ever wanted to do on TV I did on my first episode of Firefly. I was living every boy's dream, every day, and I was doing some of the best work I've ever done. It was a lot of first for me. It was my first crack at a lead, first one hour drama — it was a lot of first for me, and it put me in contact with a lot of amazing, talented people who I still call friends and still love to death.

Do you still get approached by Firefly fans?

Tons and tons. And I like it best when they just see me — when you get that moment of recognition, like they take a breath in and gasp, then they collect themselves really quickly and go, 'Captain.'

And that's all they do. That's the best. Especially when I'm with someone and they go, 'wait, what did that person call you?'

Final question — it's time for a haircut and you're in the barbers chair. What do you ask for?

I ask for the imperceptible trim. Just give me a trip, and when I get out of here, I don't want it to look like I just got a haircut.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Three Musketeers, fashion and opera

Friday — The Three Musketeers

A classic tale presented by Calgary's renowned Shakespeare Company. The Three Musketeers tells the story of D'Artagnan, who wishes to join the King's Musketeers, and finds him in the middle of a plot against the crown. Of course, D'Artagnan befriends the famed three Musketeers along the way.

For more information, visit shakespearecompany.com

Saturday — MakeFashion 5.0

The annual fashion meets tech runway shows gathers the work of 22 design teams to showcase at the Telus Spark. Pieces combine the trendiest designs of the fashion world new sound controlled lights, moving parts and more.

There will also be performance by Calgary's Trip the Light Dance Co.

For more information, visit makefashion.org

Saturday — Turandot

Princess Turandot defies marriages in a unique way. She challenges potential suitors with three riddles — and when they are unable to answer, they are sentenced to death. When she meets her match in Prince Calaf, a different kind of game ensues. This is the final production of Calgary Opera's 2016/17 season.

For more information, visit calgaryopera.com

Sunday — Cowtown Opera

If Turandot is a bit too serious, or doesn't fulfill all your opera needs, the Cowtown Opera's latest performance is a musical parody of television's guilty pleasures — like The Bachelor. There will also be sing-alongs to Disney hits like Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid and more.

For more information, visit cowtownoperacompany.com
AARON CHATHA/METRO

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CLOTHING SWAP

Finding clothes for LGBTQ people costly and stressful

Autumn Fox
For Metro | Calgary

For many transgender and two-spirited people, what they

wear can be a positive step in affirming their gender identity.

However, a disproportionate number of LGBTQ people experience poverty and homelessness as a result of employment discrimination and family rejection, making it difficult to afford the things many take for granted, such as clothing and makeup.

This weekend, Calgary Boys and Girls Clubs and The Alex Youth Health Centre are team-

ing up for the LGBTQ Swap and Shop, an opportunity to build community connections and support, and to help transgender and two-spirited people — particularly youth who identify as such — to find clothing that is relevant to their identity.

"For a lot of folks, clothes and makeup can be a really important way to express their own gender, and to affirm their gender, and to put their gender out into the world," said Ryan

Peters, a support worker for Aura, a housing program for LGBTQ youth at Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary.

Many transgender and two-spirited people experience discrimination when clothes shopping, and change rooms can be especially stressful.

There is no admission to the swap, which is being held at CommunityWise Resource Centre on April 1, and anyone is welcome to donate or browse.



Ryan Peters is helping organize a clothing swap for transgender and two-spirited people. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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TAKING FLIGHT

Students take on role reversals

In theatre, role reversals are frequently seen on stage, but rarely behind the scenes.

Despite this, two University of Calgary students have taken on a project wherein each wrote their own one-act play, and the other is tasked with directing the show for the upcoming Taking Flight Festival at the university.

Anyssa McKee, an English major, and Cayley Wreggitt, a drama student, first pitched the idea of a yearlong, self-directed study to the U of C's drama department after completing a playwriting course.

"This was a very ambitious project that we, to be honest, didn't expect to be approved," said McKee.

Directing in itself can be tough, but taking ownership of someone else's work presented a new set of challenges for the two.

"Honestly, that's the most nerve-wracking part," said Wreggitt. "Are they going to like it? Have I done a good job of being true to their vision?"

"It's part of giving up a little bit too, you have to send your

baby out into the world," said McKee.

Both women say that because they've been involved with the project since the writing process — they know each other's work inside and out — and feel comfortable offering constructive criticism.

"The way she directs is not the way I direct, but it's still works really well and I'm so happy to see her bringing my characters to life. She's finding little nuances that I didn't even know were there," said Wreggitt.

The Afterlife, written by Wreggitt, is about discovering that purgatory is really show that determines whether you'll end up in heaven or hell.

Closer to the Heart, written by McKee, is about two estranged sisters coming together to write their father's eulogy.

The festival, which runs from March 27 until April 1 at the U of C, is showcasing the two one act plays in a double feature on Friday and Saturday night. For more information on the festival, visit www.scpa.ucalgary.ca.

AUTUMN FOX/FOR METRO



University of Calgary students Cayley Wreggitt, left, and Anyssa McKee decided to challenge themselves by writing their own plays — and then switching roles to direct the other's work. AUTUMN FOX/FOR METRO

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COSTUMES

Designers help create character from clothes



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

You know what they say, clothes make the man/woman/railroad worker/demon hunting gunslinger.

Carol Case and Jennifer Haffenden are both nominees for Best Costume Designer at this year's Alberta Film and Television awards.

Case was nominated for her work with *Hell on Wheels* (and she's currently working on *Fargo*) and Haffenden was nominated for *Wynonna Earp* (she's currently sewing and stitching for season 2).

They're both 20-year vets of the industry.

Case got her start in theatre, and moved up through the film industry thanks to her background in period

costumes (tons of westerns shooting in Alberta).

Haffenden trained in Toronto, but got her big break working on the *Honey I Shrunk the Kids* TV show, which shot in Calgary.

CREATING A CHARACTER

Costumes are a vital part of visual storytelling, and it's about staying true to the character, the time period and the show's look. It's more than just shopping for clothes, and both designers have come up with their own methods to create the most unique looks for their shows.

"In a fashion shoot, you want everyone to look as gorgeous as possible," smiled Case. "This is about telling a story."

For example, she said, characters that are more in tune with the earth are dressed in browns and greens — while someone who's more in their head wears lots of blues and greys.

With *Hell on Wheels*, characters are dressed in very earthy colours, as they



Carol Case, who's currently working on the set of *Fargo*, has been nominated for her previous work in *Hell on Wheels*. JENNIFER FRIESEN / FOR METRO

worked the earth in and around the railroad. Much of their attire is built around survival, and Case goes out

of her way to make things look as accurate as possible.

"The ladies in the sewing room can tell you, I'm a bit of

a stickler for no top stitching where there wouldn't be top stitching, and the right kind of buttons," she said. "We did

a lot of research, shopping all over North America and even Britain to get the right trims and buttons that really looked like the period."

On a show like *Wynonna Earp*, which features demons and resurrected souls of ancient criminals, Haffenden likes to approach costuming like making uniforms.

"Although people have a variety in their closets, so many people we know personally seem to have a bit of a uniform," she said. "I'm sure you've seen it — some people always wear plaid shirts and variations of that. It's always good to find your characters uniform."

Unlike *Hell on Wheels*, which is very gritty, *Wynonna Earp* is more of a fun genre show. Haffenden knows many of her cast members would be right at home on a runway — so she likes to dress them up to look beautiful, as much as she can.

Both designers work regularly within the Alberta film industry, and have been nominated with three other local designers for the award.

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Iceberg near-miss for oil platform



An iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland in February 2016.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

NEWFOUNDLAND

Husky says crew was ready for potential disconnect

A floating oil platform off Newfoundland has had a near-miss with an iceberg the size of a small office building.

Husky Energy said a

"medium size" iceberg came within 180 metres of the SeaRose FPSO at about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"We had an iceberg pass close by our production facility," Husky's Colleen McConnell said Thursday.

"We've been monitoring this particular piece of ice for awhile. It changed direction at about two in the morning, and we obviously had to respond quickly."

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board described the iceberg as 40 metres wide, 60 metres long and standing eight metres above the waterline.

The massive, 270-metre SeaRose is Husky's lone oil-producing asset in the area. Built in 2004, the red-hulled, ship-like vessel can also store up to 940,000 barrels. The board says Husky de-pressurized production wells and flushed flow-

lines with treated seawater, while the crew mustered in preparation for a potential disconnect.

But the iceberg passed without incident and was more than 500 metres away by 6 a.m.

The board says it is discussing the near-miss with Husky.

Icebergs are monitored constantly in the area, about 350 kilometres east of St. John's in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, McConnell said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MILITARY

General denies money troubles

The country's top soldier has pushed back on suggestions the armed forces is struggling from a lack of cash, saying he's not convinced it is making the most of the money it already gets.

Yet chief of defence staff Gen. Jonathan Vance says he is also eager to see the government's new defence policy, which has promised to put the military on a strong financial footing over the long term.

"The here and now is fine, we're delivering," Vance said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "But going forward, that's when the government committed to sustainable, progressive armed forces."

The question of military spending has taken on a life of its own over the last year, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on NATO allies to contribute more to their own defence.



Gen. Jonathan Vance
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada currently spends about one per cent of its GDP on defence, which is half the agreed-upon NATO target of two per cent and puts it in the bottom half among the allies.

Rather than increase defence spending, however, last week's federal budget saw the Liberal government delay hundreds of millions of dollars in planned equipment purchases by several years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Walking 'a tricky line'

SEX ASSAULT

Legal expert weighs in on defence tactics vs. complainant



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

How far defence lawyers can go in questioning the credibility of a sexual-assault complainant, and how much they were drinking, is a "tricky line," one Halifax expert says.

Wayne MacKay, Dalhousie University law professor, said he felt "disappointment" to see another taxi sexual-assault case in court this week involving Saher Hamdan, less than a month after cabbie Bassam Al-Rawi was acquitted by Judge Gregory Lenehan. The controversial acquittal drew national attention and is being appealed.

"That is troubling, because one would hope that taxis are safe places to be," MacKay said



A woman protests in Halifax earlier this month over Judge Gregory Lenehan's decision to find a Halifax taxi driver not guilty in a high-profile sexual assault case. JEFF HARPER/METRO HALIFAX

Thursday.

In Hamdan's case, the 19-year-old passenger testified in court Wednesday the driver rubbed her leg a few times without her consent, reached between her legs to pull a latch and slide back her seat and asked if he could kiss her the evening of July 15, 2016.

Defence lawyer John O'Neill

extensively cross-examined the complainant on where her feet were in the cab at different points and said it was a "significant" point whether her leg was on the dashboard as she said in July or propped on the inner side compartment of the door, which she said Wednesday.

Many readers commented on

social media that they felt it was also irrelevant O'Neill questioned the woman at length about what she was drinking at the bar, and how much, before getting in the cab.

Even though the public conversation is shifting away from what a woman was drinking or wearing when an alleged assault

occurs, MacKay said the defence has a duty to represent their clients to the "fullest extent of the law" while remaining ethical and respectful.

Defence lawyers cannot "unduly push" the law as they try to find inconsistencies or problems with the credibility of a complainant, MacKay said, and must follow modern restrictions like not asking about someone's sexual history.

And although a complainant's general pattern of drinking is a "problematic" line of questioning, MacKay said how much she was drinking before an alleged assault is "fair game."

"That could affect her recollections ... as long as it doesn't cross the line into suggesting she was a drunk or drunk most of the time, which are more of a personality attack," MacKay said. "It's a tricky line."

Although the defence may focus on a complainant's credibility and drinking, MacKay said, it's really important that society focuses on what the accused person did to produce a sexual-assault situation.

WORKPLACE

Mental health help valued by millennials



May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Millennials are looking for mental health support at work, according to a new survey from Centennial College and non-profit CivicAction, and more likely than other generations to use these kinds of services.

An Angus Reid survey of 1,521 adults found almost two-thirds of millennials expect to access mental health services at work.

Lindsay Balbirnie, a Centennial College public relations student who worked on the project, said they commissioned the survey to shed light on the mental health issues in the workplace.

"What we wanted to do was kind of draw the attention to the employers who would be hiring," she said.

Sarah Harris, communications director for CivicAction, said many millennials are in "a big transition point" at the beginning of their careers, which can be tough.

NEWFOUNDLAND

Photographer stunned by 'praying' polar bear

Jessica Andrews was scanning through dozens of photos she took of a polar bear roaming around her backyard when she came across one that stopped her in her tracks.

The large animal was squatting beneath a white cross, its paws together and raised skyward as it looked up in a seemingly reverential pose.

"I didn't notice it when I was taking them, but when I started to go through to edit them, oh my God, I was like, 'Holy crap, he's praying!'" the 22-year-old said from her home in Wesleyville, a shoreline community on Newfoundland's central coast.

"I was amazed, I mean, beyond amazed."

The slightly grainy photo

shows the bear sitting on its haunches on a barren, snow-covered patch of rock as it looks up to the top of the white cross.

Andrews said she heard there was a polar bear on the small island behind her house soon after she arrived home from work at about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. She grabbed her

camera and spotted the bear wandering around some old fishing boxes on the island before it slipped into the water and ventured over to a neighbouring island.

She kept shooting photos and watching the bear with binoculars, insisting that the curious animal was staring back at her. THE CANADIAN PRESS



A polar bear looks up at a cross in Wesleyville, N.L.

JESSICA ANDREWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Women and young girls wash clothes while others collect water in one of the hosting communities for internally displaced people in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Women and children have suffered most from the Boko Haram insurgency. Many of them are suffering from food insecurity and a lack of clean water and medical care. GETTY IMAGES

Situation not 'unsolvable'

United Nations warns that more than five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are facing a food emergency



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The trip was meant to instill some hope in an otherwise dire environment. Instead, it left Nene Akinten with serious concerns about the future.

"It was a very bad situation, but I could tell it was going to get worse," said Akinten, an Oakville resident originally from Nigeria.

Last year she teamed up with members of Relief International-Nigeria Women in Diaspora to collect donations for the country's internally displaced people.

With her three kids and a few other members, they visited four camps and spent days tutoring children and interacting with people who had fled both the Boko Haram violence and starvation.

It was a "gloomy" experience, said Akinten. Malnutrition was rampant.

Subsisting on donations, no one could afford three meals

a day.

She heard people were already dying from lack of food in the northeastern states.

A year later, her fears have been confirmed.

The United Nations has warned over five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe face a food emergency, and famine could break out by June.

Insecurity is a big part of the problem, as close to two million residents have been forced out of their households and can no longer work on farming.

"If you don't die from hunger then these Boko Haram people will kill you. It's crazy," said Mustapha Daodu, an Edmonton-based reggae musician.

Some of his family members still live in Borno, and he regularly sends money to support them.

"I'm really worried this whole famine will spread to the rest of the country very soon," he added.

Katherine Clark, who recently returned from a four-month assignment with Doctors With-



Nene Akinten, centre in green, visited four camps last year as part of an effort to help those affected by food shortages in northeast Nigeria. CONTRIBUTED

out Borders (MSF) in northeast Nigeria, said the conflict has damaged infrastructure and made it difficult for people to access humanitarian aid.

"These aren't unsolvable problems," she said of the malnutrition and poor hygiene in camps.

"People are healthy again after they're assisted. I don't think anybody should really go hungry in the world today."

BY THE NUMBERS | FAMINE IN NIGERIA

\$99.9 million
Total funds raised so far

\$1.1 billion
Funds required to avert a famine



5.1 million

The number of people who are currently food insecure in northeastern Nigeria



50,000

Number of people predicted to be suffering from famine by June

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and an expat.

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A Republican name game

Those on the right seem to think Trump is doing fine, problems are someone else's fault

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

It was revealed, as U.S. President Donald Trump's kindergarten collage of a health-care bill collapsed last week under the warm reception of a toenail-clippings sandwich, that many Trump voters have an unusual malady.

They cannot comprehend that one bill could have two names. Many, upon hearing that the Republicans were going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and strip them of access to expanded Medicaid last week, balked. You see, they thought it was Obamacare that was supposed to get the heave-ho. They didn't realize they were the same thing.

Let's give a round of applause for Fox News. The natural home of the Republican party and anti-Obamacare sentiment.

The network synonymous with sexual assault lawsuits might be viewed among some Canadians as an unfortunate

quirk of the U.S. media landscape, a bit of discolouring on an otherwise perfectly serviceable dress.

It is not.

Or rather, Fox News is the acid spew that threatens to ruin the entire thing: It is the most-watched news network in the U.S., and growing. The Los Angeles Times reported in late December that year-end numbers showed that "Fox News Channel was the most-watched network in all of cable with an average of 2.43 million viewers in prime time, up 36 per cent over last year."

Certainly, there's a distinction to be made between the thousands of local news reporters and programs, and the national news reporting teams, and people like Bill O'Reilly, the grubby-faced Fox News star.

But it is O'Reilly's brand of ... loyalty, to use Trump's favourite word, that currently characterizes the American right. This week, the president faced the kind of approval ratings you'd reserve mostly

for people who don't pick up after their dogs: 36 per cent by March 24, according to Gallup.

Among Republicans, however, his support is soaring around the 90 per cent mark, down only 5 per cent week-to-week after the health-care bill flopped.

To recap: The president with an historically low overall approval rating is doing just fine, according to his base, according to polls. Certainly, we know enough at this point not to take polling at the same face value that you reserve for your tarot cards, but the sentiment — that some Trump voters believe he's doing a good job, and everything wrong in his first few months is someone else's fault — has been borne out by reporting. When radio-God-among-us Tom Ashbrook took his call-in show to Miami in mid-March, an older man who voted for Trump put it this way: "If (the democrats) allow him to do what he has in mind, he may be one of the best presidents in terms



U.S. President Donald Trump reacts with Secretary Tom Price and Vice President Mike Pence after Republicans abruptly pulled their health-care bill from the House floor on March 24. GETTY IMAGES

of bringing the economy back like it's supposed to be, that we've ever had."

Meanwhile, Breitbart News is gunning for Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, publishing every bad bit of news they can

find on the GOP bill under the banner of "Ryancare."

At this rate, Trump might end up becoming the only president ever impeached, whilst entirely innocent. According to some.

Global digest

GERMANY

Far-right party urges supporters to infiltrate police

A far-right party in Germany is urging its supporters to join the police force in the eastern state of Saxony to obtain information about migrants accused of committing crimes.

The National Democratic Party says supporters should also apply for Saxony's Security Watch — a volunteer unit that supports regular police — to gain insights into how law enforcement agencies work.

UNITED STATES

Judge extends temporary order blocking travel ban

A U.S. judge in Hawaii is keeping U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on hold while the state's lawsuit works its way through the courts, the latest defeat for the government after it pushed for a freeze on the nation's refugee program to go forward.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson issued a 24-page order Wednesday extending his temporary order blocking the ban.

SOMALIA

Pentagon gets OK for more aggressive airstrikes

U.S. President Donald Trump has granted the U.S. military more authority to go after al-Qaida linked militants in Somalia, approving a Pentagon request to allow more aggressive airstrikes, officials said Thursday.

Portions of southern Somalia, excluding the capital Mogadishu, will be considered a warzone, officials said.

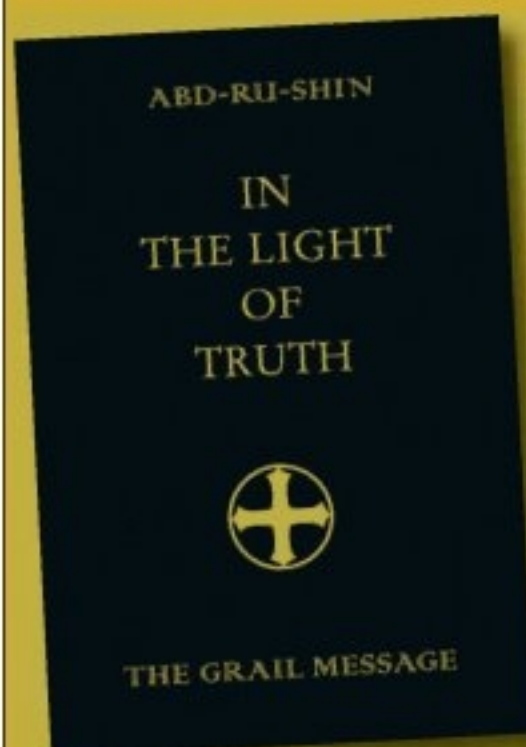
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HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Number of Syrian refugees tops the five-million mark

The number of Syrians who have fled their country after six years of civil war has surpassed the 5-million mark, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday.

UNHCR announced the milestone a year after participating countries at a Geneva conference pledged to "resettle and facilitate pathways for 500,000 refugees" from Syria — but only half of those places have been allocated so far.

Meanwhile, the war in Syria

is not letting up.

A Syrian doctor in a rebel-held area in the central province of Hama said government airstrikes were suspected of using toxic gas on Thursday on civilians and opposition fighters in the town of Latamneh. The doctor said his hospital treated nearly 40 people, including women and children, who were injured in two separate attacks early in the day. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported

that 50 people were suffering from breathing difficulties following government barrel bombs.

This is the second time such reports from this area in Hama have emerged. The doctor, who uses the name of Abu Mohammed, out of fear of reprisals, said his hospital was directly hit by suspected toxic gas last Saturday, killing a 40-year-old surgeon who suffocated while performing a surgery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR: PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Helena Hutton

Take notice that on the **10th day of April 2017 at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom # 1205, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order**; of your children born on **April 22, 2006, March 1, 2003 and December 21, 2000**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Jackie Ellice; Leanne Baines; Daniella Eggink
Children's Services Calgary Region
Phone: (403) 297-2978

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR: TEMPORARY GUARDIANSHIP ORDER TO:

Janet Elizabeth Kamara

Take notice that on the **6th day of April at 2:00 p.m., at Calgary Family Court, Courtroom #1408, 601 – 5th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta**, a hearing will take place.

A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Temporary Guardianship Order**; of your child born on **September 8, 2015**. If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you **MUST** appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

You do have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

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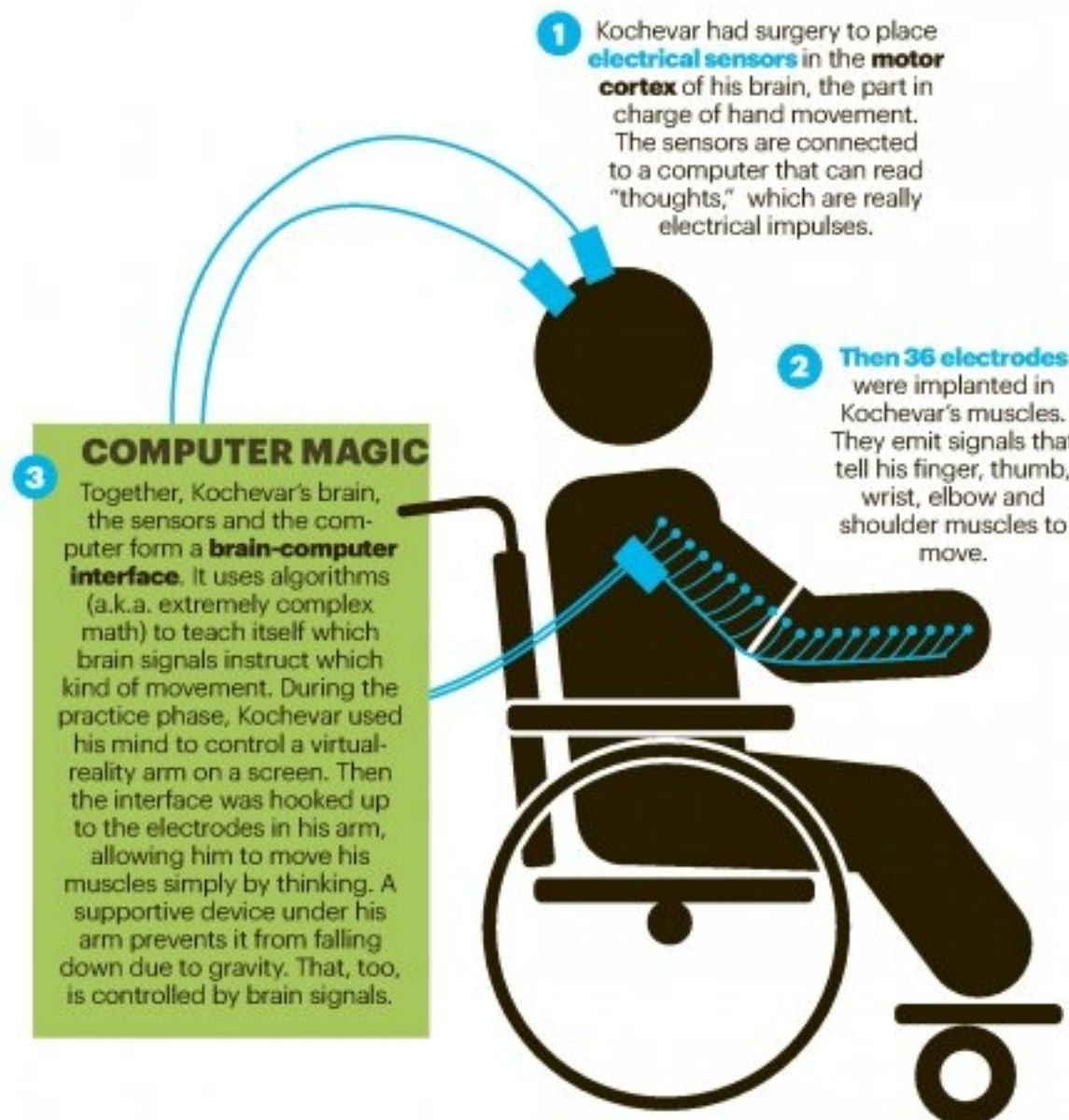
Roaring back? Two credible sightings have scientists out looking for the Tasmanian tiger, believed extinct since 1936



DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

MOVING HIS HAND WITH HIS MIND

Eight years ago, Bill Kochevar's bicycle collided with the back of a mail truck and his life changed forever. He was paralyzed from the tops of his shoulders down. But now his hand can reach and grasp again. He can feed himself and sip a cup of coffee. And he does it exactly the same way able-bodied people do: Intuitively, just by thinking about it.



REACHING FOR THE FUTURE



This one-person study, published this week in the journal *The Lancet*, is the first time brain sensors and muscle electrodes have been used at the same time to restore reaching and grasping movements to a person with complete paralysis. The technology is not ready for use outside the lab, but that hasn't quelled Kochevar's enthusiasm. He said, "I'm still wowed every time I do something. I ate a pretzel. I drank water."

FINDINGS Your week in science



PLAYING CHICKEN WITH JUPITER

It's name is BeeZed, and it's one gutsy little asteroid. A new University of Western Ontario study found the object is orbiting the sun in the opposite direction of other asteroids in its neighbourhood (picture a car driving the wrong way down the highway, with 6,000 cars coming in the other direction), and its path takes it very close to Jupiter. But it hasn't collided because it's thrown off, thankfully, by the giant planet's gravity.

SOUND SMART



DEFINITION

Epigenetics is the study of how genes are switched on and off. You can't change the genetic code you inherited from your parents. But your environment can change how genes are expressed.

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Carlos's identical twin is a faster runner and has a higher IQ than him. They have the same genetic code, so those differences are probably due to **epigenetics**.

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

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CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Famine isn't over when it's over

Twenty million people are at risk of starvation as famines sweep Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan.

Canadians, richly blessed as we are, should be giving more than our fair share to help stop the suffering — for the sake of the victims, their children and even their grandkids.

That's because when the immediate crisis passes, it won't actually be in the past. An emerging body of science shows starvation leaves invisible scars, layered on the genes of famine victims.

Starvation and nutrient deficiency profoundly alter our body chemistry, including by disturbing the precisely regulated process of turning particular genes on and off at particular times. This DNA on/off switch is called **methylation** — a process of sticking certain molecules onto genes to change their function.

We don't exactly know why methylation gets messed up during starvation, but we've seen the results: Poor health outcomes among people who live through famine. It's especially acute for

children whose mothers were starved during pregnancy. And those changes can be passed on. Tragically, history has left researchers with no shortage of natural experiments.

Children who were in the womb during the Dutch Hunger Winter of 1944-1945 grew up to have higher risk of heart disease, obesity and schizophrenia. Their children were more likely to be born too small, yet grew up to suffer disproportionately from obesity.

Children of mothers who lived

through China's calamitous 1959-1961 famine suffer from hyperglycemia at double the normal rate. The same is true of their children. Research on victims of the 1974-1975 famine in Bangladesh suggests this effect may be due to methylation of the PAX8 gene, which regulates the thyroid and is involved in metabolism.

I could go on. But do you really need another reason to support famine relief?

Science Question?

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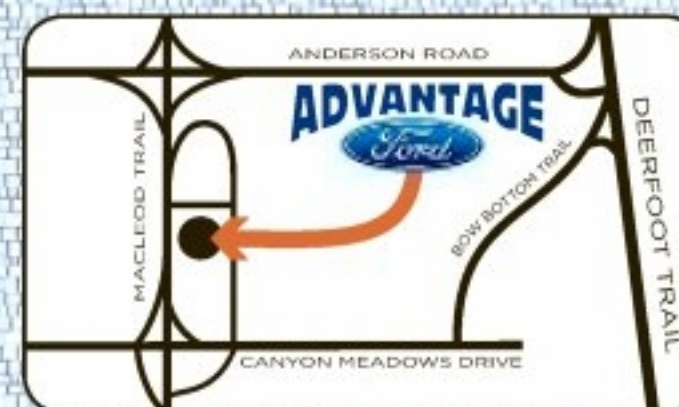
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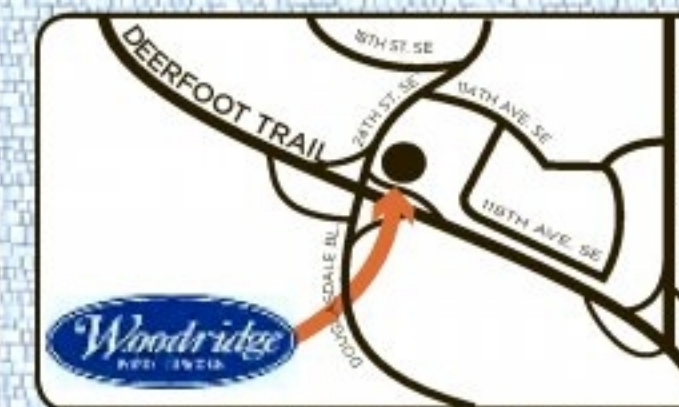
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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Look who's baby-talking now

NEW RELEASE

Alec Baldwin isn't the first to lend his voice to a newborn

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In the movies anything is possible. Superheroes routinely save the earth, regular folks can afford to live in fancy New York apartments and infants can talk.

This weekend Alec Baldwin lends his distinctive, raspy voice to the title character of *The Boss Baby*. Based on a 36-page book by Marla Frazee, it's a feature length riff on *Look Who's Talking* as imagined by Family Guy's Stewie Griffin.

"I may look like a baby but I was born all grown up," *Boss Baby* boasts as he drops into the Templeton family, upsetting only child Tim's carefree life. Wearing a suit onesie, BB carries a briefcase and speaks the language of the boardroom.

Seems he's from a purveyor of fine babies, a company that supplies tots via a chute. Those who giggle when tickled are placed with families, those who don't, like *Boss Baby*, are sentenced to a Kafka-esque, humourless life in BabyCorp management, kept infant-sized by special formula.

With lines like, "You know who else wears a diaper? Astronauts," *Boss Baby* has the mov-



Miles Bakshi lends his voice to Tim, while Alec Baldwin voices the titular *Boss Baby* in the new Dreamworks animated film. DREAMWORKS ANIMATION VIA AP

ie's best speeches, expertly delivered by Baldwin but he's not the first talking baby to grace the big screen.

Leone LeDoux was an actor who, when she wasn't voicing Minnie Mouse in cartoons of the 1930s and 1940s, made a career out of supplying baby vocals for movies. Some, like her work in the short *Water Babies*, involved creating childlike sounds for on screen infants while others were more involved. In *The Reluctant Dragon* she gives voice to child genius Baby Weems.

"You're a quiet little fellow, aren't you?" coos the nurse.

"Well, there really isn't much to talk about," replies Weems.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Ghost in the Shell	★★★
The Boss Baby	★★★
The Zookeeper's Wife	★★★
Obit	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Other movie babies have had more to say.

Amy Heckerling came up with the idea for the Citizen Kane of talking toddler movies, *Look Who's Talking*, when she and screenwriter husband Neal Israel were playing with their new baby. "My husband and I started to put words in

her mouth...what she might be thinking based on her expressions," she told the *Los Angeles Times*.

The playful game blossomed into a film starring Kristie Alley, John Travolta and Bruce Willis as the voice of talking newborn Mikey. Heckerling notes that Willis frequently

went off script, improvising X-rated lines that couldn't be used in the film.

The movie gave Travolta's career a shot in the arm — he hadn't acted in five years — and started a talking baby trend in pop culture. The next year the sitcom *Baby Talk* starred the vocal stylings of Tony Danza as Baby Mickey, son of single mom Maggie.

More recently the baritone voiced E-Trade baby, frequently voiced by comedian Pete Holmes, looked to Heckerling's movie for inspiration.

From 2008 to 2014 Elayne Rapping, professor of American Studies at SUNY/Buffalo says

the spokesbaby "humanized the whole business of trading. While other babies are just pictures, this one has a personality that is pure pop culture."

Finally, back on the big screen *Baby Geniuses* sees Kathleen Turner and Christopher Lloyd as scientists who think that babies are born knowing the secrets of the universe.

To learn those secrets they try to decode goo-goo-ga-ga baby talk. Roger Ebert put this movie on his "Most Hated" list and the Stinkers bad Movie Awards nominated Leo, Gerry and Myles Fitzgerald, the triplets who played Sly, the baby genius, as Worst Child Performer.

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The noble, familiar fight of The Zookeeper's Wife

WARTIME DRAMA

Based on a true story, film explores anti-Nazi war efforts

Antonina Zabinski has an idyllic life.

At the Warsaw zoo that she and her husband Jan run, she nurses lion cubs in her home and a young camel dutifully accompanies her as she bicycles on her daily rounds tending to the animals.

All that changes dramatically with the German invasion of Poland and the advent of the Second World War.

Based on a true story, *The Zookeeper's Wife* chronicles the couple's efforts to res-

cue Jews from the infamous Warsaw ghetto and to further risk their own lives by housing them secretly in a basement hideout.

"That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts," notes Antonina (played by Jessica Chastain).

Certainly, Antonina begins to see the worst in the human beings around her, personified in the form of Lutz Heck (Daniel Bruhl), the chief zoologist for the Nazi regime.

She reluctantly forms an uneasy relationship — one that hints of romance — when Heck nearly uncovers the presence of others in the family home. Inevitably, it causes strains in her marriage.

Director Niki Caro does



an able job of capturing the period detail and creating an atmosphere of tension and danger.

Chastain is an appealing protagonist, radiating an aura of determination in the face of uncertainty and adversity — and getting the Polish accent just right.

Johan Heldenbergh plays Jan with a quiet stoicism and strength and the relationship between the two is believable.

The weak link may be the performance of Bruhl as Heck, a character who's more oily than menacing, making him a less-than-persuasive villain.

The film details several key dates in the couple's years-long struggle but their significance won't always be clear to filmgoers without detailed historical knowledge.

History may in fact be the film's biggest challenge in drawing an audience. The period and the monstrous persecution and extermination of Europe's Jews have been covered extensively and memorably in so many other previous films. While *The Zookeeper's Wife* is a reasonably accomplished work, it would be difficult to argue that it breaks new ground or offers a fresh perspective on those horrific times.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The Zookeeper's Wife stars Jessica Chastain and Johan Heldenbergh and opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED



That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts.

Antonina, played by Jessica Chastain

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Scarlett Johansson plays a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg in the new live-action take on manga/anime classic *Ghost in the Shell*. CONTRIBUTED

What's beneath the sexy surface

REVIEW

Casting saves live-action take on manga-anime classic

Anime exemplar *Ghost in the Shell* was a singular sensation in 1995, boldly anticipating the coming digital world even as it revisited old ideas of human minds inhabiting machine forms.

The new live-action take, starring Scarlett Johansson as a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg, isn't quite so innovative. The film slavishly revisits not

only the original inspiration but such other sci-fi landmarks as *Blade Runner* and *Metropolis*, creating an unsettling feeling not unlike the "uncanny valley" effect more common to photorealistic animation.

With Rupert Sanders at the helm, a situation akin to his earlier *Snow White* and the *Huntsman* ensues. The picture looks great, with seamless CGI and artful imagery, but the committee-written screenplay is of artificial rather than intelligent design.

Casting saves the movie, notwithstanding the thorny issue of cultural appropriation. Johansson plays a character, known variously as Mira

and Major, who was originally drawn as Asian, right back to the 1989 manga that spawned what has become a multimedia franchise.

But talent trumps optics, as Tilda Swinton proved in *Doctor Strange*, and ScarJo has bona fides to spare: she honed her action chops in *The Avengers*, rocked alien animus in *Under the Skin* and clicked a computing mind in *She*.

Kudos, too, for an uncommonly good supporting cast. Juliette Binoche exudes empathy as not-so-mad scientist Dr. Ouelet, who refines the "cerebral salvage" technique that places the surviving brain of fatally injured Mira — victim

of a terrorist attack, she's told — into the curvaceous "shell" of super-soldier Major. She'll be joining the terrorist-fighting Section 9 unit of her Asian metropolis, where humans, machines and holograms jostle.

Mira/Major's male foils are macho yet still interesting: Denmark's Pilou Asbaek makes a mean sidekick Batou, despite sporting artificial peepers that regrettably recall Little Orphan Annie; Michael Pitt's brings an Island of Misfit Toys melancholy to his Kuze character, whose subterranean presence and slowly revealed motivations bring needed emotion; and Japanese actor/director "Beat" Takeshi Kitano makes

the most of very few words as the unbending Ministry of Defence official who controls Section 9.

All are in service, alas, of a story drawn from an Existentialism 101 course outline, wherein Mira/Major keeps trying to figure out how much of her is human, how much is machine and who's fooling who?

She keeps talking about how she's "the first of her kind," but that sounds even more derivative than it did in 1995. The conceit of a human mind inside of a mechanical body is almost as old as the movies, dating back to the Maria/Maschinenmensch dual character of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*,

released in 1927.

Mira/Major's government and corporate overlords, of course, would prefer she concentrate more on doing than thinking. When she stops brooding and gets clobbering, she does so in spectacular fashion, taking on creeps that include a brain-sucking mechanical geisha and a humungous robot spider.

She does it all while dressed in a nude bodysuit that makes her look for all the world like a giant unclothed Barbie doll, an unnecessary concession to series fidelity. Then as now, it's about nothing more than fanboy titillation.

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Donnie Darko's return is welcome in weird times

ANALYSIS

Dystopian film starring Jake Gyllenhaal gets new VOD rollout

Peter Howell
For Metro Canada

Funny thing about doom 'n' gloom cinema: critics and regular moviegoers alike often sniff at fresh depictions of terrible things to come.

Time and politics — like the election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency — can make even the bleakest of prophetic visions suddenly seem spot on.

Both Fritz Lang's urban dystopia *Metropolis* and Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*, set in a drenched L.A. of 2019, were panned in their time but now hailed as masterpieces — they're referenced in this week's big opener, *Ghost in the Shell* — and sci-fi fans eagerly await Denis Villeneuve's *Blade Runner 2049*, a sequel due in October.

A number of movie theatres are about to screen Michael Radford's 1984, commemorating the start date of the story's anti-Big Brother protest by rebel worker Winston Smith. In all, 180 North American art houses are participating in this act of artistic uprising, celebrating freedom of speech and protesting Trump's anti-art administration.

There is another revival soon to be screened: a new print of and renewed appreciation for Richard Kelly's *Donnie Darko*, one of the most overlooked of films in the dystopian and apocalyptic cinema canon.

The film is also getting a new VOD and Blu-ray rollout on April 18, wherein you can stare at Kelly's still-disturbing view of 1988 America. The movie, which premiered at Sundance in January 2001, anticipated the horrors of 9/11 just a few months later.

The family home of Jake Gyllenhaal's title character is struck by a fallen jet engine, part of the impending global devastation predicted by a giant rabbit named Frank, who is either Donnie's delusion or the weirdest of doomsayers. A book titled *The Philosophy of Time Travel* becomes significant to a movie that operates on more than one level of existence.

It's remarkable to think how our political process has just deteriorated into this grotesque reality television spectacle.

Richard Kelly, director



Donnie Darko, which premiered in 2001, had eerie similarities to 9/11 and was only released in a handful of Canadian theatres. CONTRIBUTED

Here is a film that truly deserves a revival, especially since it never really got a first chance to make its mark. Donnie Darko barely made it off the launch pad in 2001 because its parallels to 9/11 — entirely accidental — seemed all too real. The movie was released that year in only a handful of theatres.

Writer/director Kelly, 41, recalls the situation all too well when I contact him for an interview. Donnie Darko was his first feature.

"No one knew how to market Donnie Darko, because it

was this unique blend of suburban comedy/drama/horror/science fiction," the Virginia filmmaker says.

Kelly doesn't feel any more inclined today than he did in 2001 to explain what Donnie Darko is about. Multiple interpretations are available online, and he's OK with that.

Viewing the film again recently, I was struck by the television images in it of George H.W. Bush and Michael Dukakis, candidates in the 1988 U.S. presidential election. Bush and Dukakis both look so presidential, unlike the current White House occupant.

Kelly agrees: "It's remarkable to think how our political process has just deteriorated into this grotesque reality television spectacle. It's troubling and it's sad."

He hasn't directed a feature since the sci-fi thriller *The Box* in 2009 but he's "so ready to get back behind the camera" with a project he says he can't yet discuss.

If there is one take-home message from Donnie Darko, he wants it to be about creativity.

"I hope that this film can inspire people to take risks and to be original, and not to feel like you have to box yourself in to a genre or classification ... You can just be who you want to be, and tell a story without restriction and without suppression. We need to take risks now. We have a reality television monster in the White House."

One that is scarier than an apocalypse-predicting giant rabbit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Bring on the blockbusters

Wonder Woman and WWII epic shine as summer sizzlers hit CinemaCon

1 Wonder Woman (June 2)

Wonder Woman is here to save the world, and, possibly the future of Warner Bros. DC Comics universe.

New footage featuring actress Gal Gadot's lasso-wielding superhero stole the show Wednesday night at CinemaCon, which also featured some peeks at Aquaman and Justice League.

It also marked Ben Affleck's first public appearance since acknowledging he'd recently completed rehab for alcohol addiction.

The Batman star didn't say anything, but just stood alongside his Justice League director Zack Snyder and co-stars Henry Cavill, Jason Momoa and Ezra Miller.

But it was Wonder Woman's show, even though Gadot wasn't in Las Vegas. The sepia-soaked extended clips highlighted the World War I espionage thrills as Diana/Wonder Woman adjusts to life with mortals.

Co-star Chris Pine, who plays an American soldier, said the Patty Jenkins-directed film had a Casablanca feel.

Even the new Justice League footage spotlighted Gadot's Wonder Woman as she breaks into Affleck's supposedly



secured bat cave with ease and informs the caped crusader that they would need to assemble to defeat a threat.

2 Dunkirk (July 21)

A propeller stops midair. Soldiers packed like sardines on a pier cower in fear of an unseen threat.

Those are the images Christopher Nolan left CinemaCon audiences hanging onto as he premiered new footage from Dunkirk, his long-awaited epic about the storied World War

II evacuation.

"It's something British people grow up with. It's in our DNA," Nolan said. "It's something that's been close to my heart for a long time."

Nolan told the audience of theatre owners that he wanted to tell the story in the most visceral way possible, putting audiences on the beaches, in the air and running with the troops.

The Interstellar and Dark Knight director shot the film entirely on large format celluloid and said theatres are the only way to

experience the suspenseful survival story.

"The only platform I'm interested in talking about is theatrical exhibition," Nolan said. "I want to thank you all for everything you've done for my films. Without you, there is no audience."

The film's large eclectic ensemble cast includes veterans like Kenneth Branagh and Mark Ryland, Nolan mainstays Tom Hardy and Cillian Murphy, pop music's One Direction star Harry Styles and a few newcomers like Fionn Whitehead.



3 The Mummy (June 9)

Universal Pictures is going back to its roots — monsters.

The studio debuted footage from its upcoming adventure film The Mummy, which opens a monster universe drawing on Universal's vault of classic properties like Bride of Frankenstein, Invisible Man and Creature from the Black Lagoon.

Tom Cruise stars in the Alex Kurtzman-directed The Mummy, which is equal parts action and horror as Cruise's

explorer Nick Morton attempts to combat an ancient evil that has been unlocked and threatens to destroy the world.

Sofia Boutella is the Mummy, once an Egyptian princess who turned to the dark side when denied the throne, with Russell Crowe starring as Dr. Jekyll/ Mr. Hyde, a role he's likely to reprise in the universe.

Kurtzman and the cast, including Boutella, Annabelle Wallis and Jake Johnson, discussed Cruise's famous commitment to eye-popping stunts.

"I think I was brought onto this movie to be afraid to do stunts with Tom Cruise," Johnson said. "Tom does it all and he makes his co-stars do it too. And I do mean 'make.'"

Johnson laughed that when he would complain when he got hurt or bruised, Cruise would quip back: "Yeah, we jumped off a building dummy. It hurts!"

Cruise, who is on location for a shoot, delivered a video message to the audience.

"My love for this began with universal classic films," Cruise said.

"To usher in a new age of gods and monsters is something that makes me very proud and excited."

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Lack of women a sign of bigger issues says Brilla

MUSIC INDUSTRY

Singer wants to see a better balance in the industry

Alysha Brilla wasn't surprised by the lack of female representation when this year's Juno Awards nominees were announced.

Years ago, the Waterloo, Ont.-based musician and producer decided to conduct an experiment. She carefully tabulated the gender diversity among Juno nominees and found there wasn't much at all, particularly in the technical categories, which were completely dominated by men.

After scrolling through this year's list of contenders — the winners are announced this weekend in Ottawa — she concluded little has changed.

"I don't want to see women take over the industry. I want to see a balance," says Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album.

FOUR

Brilla points to data that shows only four women have won the producer award in the 45 years that Junos have been handed out; the engineer prize has never gone to a woman.

bum.

Album categories including country, adult alternative, francophone, classical, contemporary Christian, rap, R&B/soul and reggae all only have one female nominee each. Both the engineer and producer of the year categories don't have a single female nominee.

When Brilla raised the issue with Junos brass in the past the response she got shocked her.

Representatives said better diversity at the Junos would only happen if more women became members of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (CARAS).

"The woman on the phone said to me, 'We don't have a lot of female voters so if you could find us some, that would be great,'" Brilla remembers.

"So I went out and did the work. I solicited every woman I knew who was technically qualified — who works in the industry. I asked artist friends, asked production friends and brought back a couple to



Musician Alysha Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album, found there is a lack of gender diversity among Juno nominees. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

them."

She waited until the next year to see if her efforts made a difference in the list of Juno nominees. They didn't, she says.

Sara Quin says the conversation motivated her to write letters to about 250 women in the industry. She plans to urge them to pay the CARAS membership fee, vote and "get more involved."

It's an initiative that sounds familiar to other prominent musicians.

"I did exactly what Sara did — last year," says Amy Millan, a member of Broken Social Scene and Stars.

"I wrote (Sarah) Harmer, Sarah Slean and Jenn Grant and I wrote all these women and said, 'Are you a member of CARAS?' Most of them came back and they said, 'No, because what's the point?'"

Millan doesn't exactly blame the Junos, but she doesn't think it's helping matters either.

She believes the awards show is emblematic of a bigger problem plaguing Canada's music industry and that women aren't getting a fair shake.

Last year, Millan drew attention to a lack of women among the 2016 Juno nominees with the Twitter hashtag #JunosSoMale, a nod to the #OscarsSoWhite movement. It was quickly embraced by other musicians including electro-pop singer Grimes, who is nominated this year for three Junos including alternative album.



Women aren't making money behind the scenes. They're often the ones simply fronting the whole operation.

Alysha Brilla, musician, producer

"I did not expect it to garner nationwide attention," Millan says. "It opened a floodgate of questions for all of us."

Her move also pushed the Junos to respond, with the organization's president saying the Junos are only mirroring the broader music industry.

"We simply reflect what comes to us, what's submitted," says Allan Reid, president of CARAS and the Junos.

Putting the blame on CARAS voters doesn't necessarily make sense either. Overall its membership is 42 per cent female, he notes. Instead, the problem is reflected more clearly in who submits their work to the Junos, Reid argues.

This year, only nine women put their names in for producer of the year among 118 contenders, he says. That's little changed from last year when women represented seven of 119 submissions, either solo or as part of a team.

Winners for the production category are voted on by active members of the Canadian music producer community who are also CARAS members.

Reid believes there are bigger questions surrounding why more women don't submit to the technical categories.

Brilla scoffs at the sentiment

that women aren't interested in technical work. She believes responsibility lies with the music industry, which she says does little to encourage young women to pursue fields traditionally reserved for men.

In high school, she enrolled in a recording studio co-op that left her feeling like the "weird one." When she looked around the industry for female production mentors, she found there were hardly any.

"Women aren't making money behind the scenes," she says. "They're often the ones simply fronting the whole operation."

Hill Kourkoutis, a Toronto-based producer, takes a more optimistic outlook on the industry.

While she used to frequently encounter people shocked to learn she worked behind a mixing console, she's finding that sentiment is slowly changing.

Over the past few years she says she's witnessed a spike in the number of young women interested in production and believes it signals a "transitional period" for the industry.

"There is that stigma to overcome, but that's been experienced in other industries," says Kourkoutis. "It's just a game of catch-up at this point."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

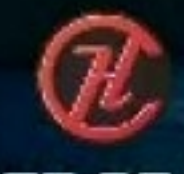


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'It takes a strong man to stand up'

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CFL star speaks out, tackles the changing face of masculinity



David P. Ball
Metro Canada

Edmonton Eskimos long snapper Ryan King's speaking out to urge men "to be more positive and to help each other out," particularly when it comes to hidden problems at home and relationship struggles.

"Everyone has the right to be safe in their own home, the one place that's yours," he told Metro in an interview on the field at Commonwealth Stadium on Thursday. "If you have domestic problems in your house, that's gotta be a really dark place."

"Even though you're maybe going through a tough time, maybe we can help guide you in the right direction. Men can make a big difference in domestic abuse and violence against women ... It takes a strong man to stand up and say, 'This is not

alright, we don't accept this.'"

On Saturday, the Edmonton-born, Sherwood Park-raised CFL player is one of several men who are part of a panel and film screening that's asking, "How can we raise and celebrate a healthier generation of boys and young men?"

Organizers invited him and other panelists to be "both vulnerable and open" in speaking out about his "experiences negotiating masculinity" as well "the broader social forces shaping" what it means to be a man in society today.

The question is especially urgent in the city: according to a report released in January, Edmonton's rate of domestic violence is nearly three times the national rate.

King is speaking alongside engineer and advocate Kala Sritharan, Indigenous elder Philip Campiou, David Long of King's University, and MLA David Shepherd.

The panel — which will be moderated by CHED radio host Ryan Jespersen — will tackle some of the thorny themes raised by the documentary *The Mask You Live In* (note the film's play on the word "masculinity")



Edmonton Eskimo Ryan King insists men must help stop domestic violence. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

that's being screened at Metro Cinema beforehand.

The documentary explores how gendered expectations constrain and shape the lives of boys and men.

"In North America, we have a fairly strict set of criteria or expectations of what a man should look like," explained

City of Edmonton social worker Michael Hoyt, who helped organize the event in partnership with the group Men Edmonton. "Those look like strength being very important, maybe not valuing authentic friendships, seeing women as objects, and seeing violence as a way of solving conflict."

"We want to expand the definitions of being a man to ones that are more gentle, respectful, nurturing and compassionate when responding to someone in distress."

He said the event hopes to foster a "much-needed dialogue" amongst Edmonton men and male-identified residents

of the city.

"In order to start that dialogue, we need to bring out everyone, to reach out to those men who wouldn't normally attend an event like this," he added.



My dad raised three boys to be successful in society, to respect women and everyone else around us.

Ryan King

"If your message is (that) men need to be strong, on your game at all times, and to toughen up in the face of adversity, then you have to steel yourself from emotionally connecting when you're vulnerable."

"The long-term consequence is you have fellows who are islands unto themselves and don't end up nurturing relationships that can sustain them through times of difficulty."

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Going up against Drake is Tasha the Amazon

MUSIC

Rapper is confident heading into Junos Sunday

If her name didn't already announce her larger-than-life power, Tasha the Amazon's music videos would surely do the trick. With a series of gritty backdrops suitable for '80s action flick shootouts, Tasha the Amazon has wielded a flamethrower, liaised with a tiger and, in *Cry of the Warrior*, stalked alligators knee-deep in the lush muck of the Everglades.

Making that last one was "pretty much free, but not really safe," the Toronto rapper-producer explains. She flew out to Florida with a couple creative cohorts, trudged to the swamp area where the gators were known to prowl, and ducked the park rangers who would have promptly thrown them out. Then, while her director Colin G. Cooper filmed one of the creatures from a few feet away, her production partner Danthrax held the back of Cooper's sweater, ready to yank backward if the creature attacked.

This is Tasha the Amazon's idea of a safety net.

"If you don't have money, you have to have brass balls to do these things," she recalled. "I think a lot of times people hold themselves back based on irrational fears. That's totally not my personality."

With a groundswell of buzz and ever-bigger stages looming for her, that kind of tenacity is serving Tasha well. But for someone who's at ease around a four-metre reptile, how imposing could some industry soiree really be?

She's just back from a personal-best South by Southwest in which she stacked up showcases like *The Price Is Right*, at one point living up to her rep as a rowdy party-starter by doling out gulps of vodka directly into her audience's mouths. The Texas trip came a few days after a performance in Mexico, where Tasha was shocked to discover a growing following.

And in days, she's off to Ottawa for the Juno Awards, where she's nominated for rap recording of the year (for last year's muddy head-knocker *Die Every Day*) against the heavyweight likes of Drake, Tory Lanez, Jazz Cartier and Belly. Daunting? Not for Tasha, especially since she's confident she deserves their company.

With only a scattering of solo



Tasha the Amazon is up against Drake, Tory Lanez, Jazz Cartier and Belly at the Junos. CONTRIBUTED

singles released prior, Tasha the Amazon took off last year. Her razor-edged raps and fidgety subterranean beats gained attention abroad as an atypical act from Toronto, someone more interested in tossing sonic bombs than exploring the moody hues of Drake's OVO crew.

Now, her YouTube and Spotify streams are deep into six figures, and a Spotify study revealed that her infectious cracked Picasso Leaning — a simultaneously joyful and doleful song about getting wasted enough to “make a Picasso out of my face” — was the most-streamed rap song of 2016 in Toronto (not including Drake, that is).

"We just put it out one morning, and four days later we had 100,000 spins," she recalled. "We're an independent team. It's not like we have big major-label bucks behind us."

This is what she's want-

ed since she was a kid. Born Natasha Schumann to German and Jamaican parents (she's related to German composer Robert Schumann on one side and reggae greats Peter Tosh and King Tubby on the other), she was raised by her grandparents in Kitchener-Waterloo.

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Amazon

So she began training classically piano around age 8, eventually picking up saxophone, guitar and bass as a way to "stay out of trouble for a minute." Plenty of problems still found her, but between "skateboarding around, spray-painting things, breaking

things, and setting things on fire," she found time to keep her grades up, mostly "out of sheer boredom." She wound up going to the University of Toronto for psych research, while at the same time indulging in 12-hour beat-making sessions.

"I went to university mostly because I was trying to convince myself not to do music," she said. Fortunately, it didn't work. She struggles to explain the signature sound she and Danthrax have developed — "it's my musical heritage, being Jamaican and German, so to me it's just what comes out" — but when she first started dropping solo singles in around 2013, the duo took the early enthusiasm as a "proof of concept." They knew they were onto something.

Back then, she used to create vision boards laying out her future. It's safe to say her ambitions have only grown since; after all, what Amazon would have use for low ceilings?

"This is a labour of love," she said. "I want music to be a life-long kind of thing."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANALYSIS

More Life is the soundtrack to an evolving music industry



Joe Callaghan
For Metro | Toronto

The great and the good of Canadian music will gather this weekend in the nation's capital and vie for Album of the Year Junos — 25 of them, to be exact.

We shouldn't be surprised that with so many genres to trundle through, it takes two full days for the Juno Awards to run their annual course.

The exhaustive list of contenders for various album honours is all the more impressive given the most perplexing question facing today's music industry: do we even know what an album is any more?

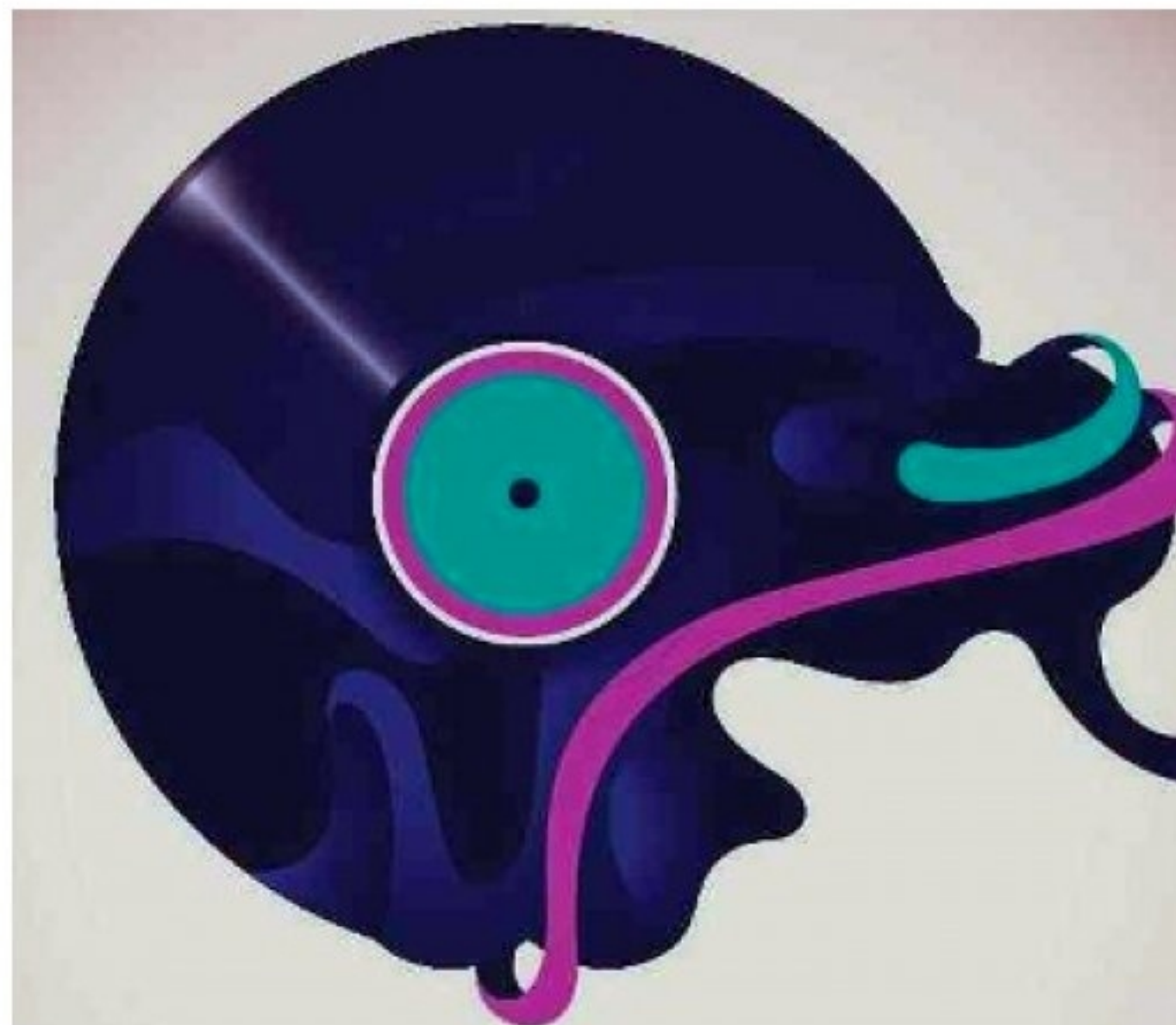
The 2017 Junos take place at a time when the country's Billboard Album Chart isn't even topped by an album. Drake's *More Life* was released March 18 and immediately went in at No. 1.

But Canada's hip hop king insists the 22-track collection is not an album. Nor is it another mixtape (to go with the four of those that he's already released). Instead *More Life*, fittingly for the streaming era, is a playlist. And it's a hell of a playlist.

More Life is an expansive, expressive journey that won quick critical acclaim and further cemented the Toronto rapper's status as a visionary talent. But through that vision, Drake continues to blur the lines.

"The idea of an album is something that's a relic, right?" says Mark Campbell, a professor in the school of media at Ryerson University and the founding director of Northside Hip Hop Archive, a digital anthology of Canadian hip hop history and culture.

"It's something that's not relevant to young people today. But Drake continually pushes up against this idea of an al-



Has Drake killed off the album, again?

bum — his mixtapes, now his playlists. I think it's because he senses that his audience needs to be engaged in a different way. It's really only people like me who are 35 or 40-plus who are actually interested in hearing a cohesive album."

The death of the album has been declared on an all too regular basis since the dawn of digital music. Drake's own

2015 release *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* was a mixtape that ended up being nominated for a Grammy. Kanye West's *The Life of Pablo* was "a living, breathing creative expression."

Critics pointed to both as signalling the official end of the traditional album.

Last year's industry statistics sum up just how altered the music environment is in the

streaming age.

In Canada alone, more songs were streamed per day (97M) than were purchased over the entire year (75M.) Total album sales for 2016 (including physical copies, downloads and streams) reached 43.3M but that figure was dwarfed by the 22.3BN total audio streams, according to the in-depth report by BuzzAngle Music.



The idea of the playlist, I think he's trying to gesture towards something more intimate, more personal.

Professor Mark Campbell on *More Life*



"The industry didn't really take the album as an artform seriously probably until the mid 1960s with the Beatles and the Stones and the Summer of Love," Eric Alper, veteran music publicist and analyst, told Metro. "But if you take a look at the superstar artists of today — the Weeknd, Drake, Justin Bieber, Alessia Cara, Shawn Mendes — it's all about the single. It's all about what song are we going to put out now."

It's an environment in which the album as once known by baby boomers and Gen X seems almost quaint.

This summer in Canada U2 will kick off a worldwide stadium tour in honour of the 30th anniversary of their flagship album, *The Joshua Tree*.

But with *More Life* Drake may also be harking back in his own way — to the golden age of the hip hop mixtape — to stay ahead.

"In one way he's trying to gesture himself forward as someone who is relatable to kids that may have never physically purchased music in their life," says Campbell. "Kids of 17, 18 years old who would never have had the experience of buying a CD."

By calling it a playlist, Drake is branding it as something in-

timate or personal, Campbell adds.

"When Obama has a playlist on Spotify, it tells you everything we need to know about the era that we're living in. People are so detached from each other digitally that we have to find new ways to reconnect. A playlist is a way to do it. Just like the mixtape was."

Alper concurs on Drake's ability to dictate where the curve turns next. He also argues that we shouldn't get so hung up on definitions but instead embrace the organic meaning of an album and celebrate this era of mass consumption.

"Music has never been more consumed, more watched, more talked about at any other time in its history. For \$10 I can have access to every single song in recorded history — that's a brilliant thing."

In that context, listeners get to decide what to call a collection of songs, and that means definitions are likely to change again, Alper says.

"So (the album) is whatever the artist wants it to be and it's whatever the fan thinks that it is. We just want to make sure that artists continue to get paid and we have great music at our fingertips."

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Mike Will Made-It has really made it after the Atlanta-based producer saw major success last year co-producing Beyoncé's critically acclaimed song **Formation**. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There's no *can't* in Mike WiLL's vocabulary

BEHIND THE SCENES

Producer rises as one of music's top producers

Whenever Mike Will Made-It receives any praise for his work on Beyoncé's anthemic *Formation*, he thinks about all of the people who doubted he would ever work with the Grammy-winning pop star.

"Back then, I was like, 'Man I could do something crazy for Beyonce.' But they was like, '... Beyonce don't be working with just anybody bro,'" he recalled. "Now, I'm to the point where I'm face-to-face with Beyonce in the studio, and all that plays in my head."

"It's basically not letting anyone tell you what you can't do."

Mike WILL stayed true to the advice his father gave him a long time ago — to remove “can’t” from his vocabulary. It has helped him reach his goals as a producer and songwriter, and craft hits like Rihanna’s *Pour It Up*, Juicy J’s *Bandz* and *Make Her Dance* and Miley Cyrus’ *We*

Can't Stop. He also executive produced Cyrus' Bangerz, her 2013 album that pushed her to full-blown pop star status, and he has produced for Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Nicki Minaj and more.

But last year Mike Will saw his biggest success as he co-produced and co-wrote Beyoncé's *Formation*, which earned him, and Beyoncé, Grammy nominations for song and record of the year.

He also produced Rae Sremmurd's *Black Beatles*, which reached the No. 1 spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100 for seven weeks.

The song, featuring Gucci Mane, became so popular that it often served as background music to the viral Mannequin Challenge, where people acted motionless while the camera scans them.

Despite the skeptics, Atlanta-raised Mike WILL has really made it.

"Everybody was against him," said Swae Lee of Rae Sremmurd, the rap duo that includes his brother Slim Jxmmi (the group is signed Mike Will's Ear Drummer Records).

"But he stays locked in on the art," Swae Lee continued. "He's focused on his craft."

“Everybody was against him. But he stays locked in on the art.”

Swae Lee,
of Rae Sremmurd

He's not worried about no one else. Today, he's like one of the greats in the industry."

Now, Mike WiLL has taken the next step as a producer: He released his debut album, *Ransom 2*, last week — a day after his 28th birthday. The album features Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna, Big Sean and Young Thug.

"He'll take a small idea and make it into a big one," Slim Jxmmi said of Mike Will. "I've seen him take one of my freestyles and make a whole entire song out of it. ... Mike has this knack for putting it all together into a big song."

A freestyle is actually what led to Formation.

When Swae Lee blurted out, "OK ladies, let's get in formation," during a car ride to the Coachella music festi-

val, Mike Will knew he had something.

"Swae Lee might have a laundry list of voice notes, but never records the song," the producer said. "But I told him we got to record this. In my mind, I'm thinking we're going to get this to Beyonce. I'm thinking about it being a woman empowerment song like Single Ladies."

Working on Formation forced Mike Will to push back his own album, but also gave him time to hone his sound and tweak the songs.

"I wanted to drop an album I feel good about, that I feel strong about," he said of *Ransom 2*, the follow-up to *Ransom*, his 2014 mixtape.

"Ever since I started doing mixtapes, it's always been a dream for me to release an album. Like how Timbaland had everybody on his album."

And like Timbaland, Mike Will has a goal of producing for more A-list acts, including Adele. He said he spoke with the British singer's manager about working on her 25 comeback album, but it never panned out.

"I feel like we can come together and do a song that's never been heard of," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REPUTATIONS

Jolie was drug tested for Tomb Raider role

To help shed her early reputation, Angelina Jolie agreed to be drug tested during production of 2001's *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, according to a new book.

The Hollywood Reporter on Wednesday released an excerpt from an upcoming biography of the former studio head Sherry Lansing, *Leading Lady*. Lansing stepped down as Paramount Pictures chairman and CEO in 2005.

When casting the then 24-year-

old Jolie, Lansing had concerns about Jolie's stability. This was shortly before the actress wed Billy Bob Thornton.

Then-Paramount production president John Goldwyn said the studio had Jolie undergo random drug tests. Director Simon West recounts that Jolie, eager for the part and to prove herself, said she would do anything — including daily drug tests — to “prove that I’m worthy.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



According to her new memoir, former Paramount Pictures chairman and CEO Sherry Lansing had concerns about Angelina Jolie's 'stability' when she was cast as Lara Croft. AP PHOTOS



Trinidad and Tobago-born and Ottawa-raised author Andre Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs* won the 2015 Scotiabank Giller Prize and the 2015 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. CONTRIBUTED

Fifteen Dogs rules the pack at Canada Reads

COMPETITIONS

Giller Prize winner grabs 2017 battle of the books

Andre Alexis's Scotiabank Giller Prize-winning novel *Fifteen Dogs* is the champion of this year's Canada Reads debate series.

The CBC's battle of the books sees high-profile panellists defending homegrown titles in a string of debates until a winner is declared.

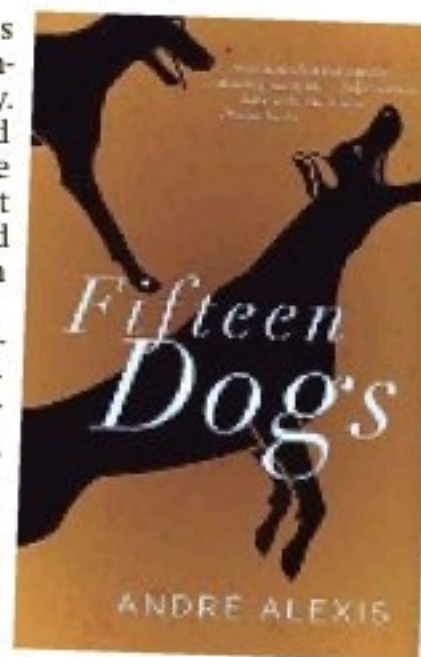
Alexis's book, about 15 dogs gifted by gods with the skills of human consciousness and

language, was named the winner on Thursday.

Spoken word artist and emcee Humble the Poet had advocated for the book in the debates.

The runner-up was *Company Town* by Madeline Ashby, which was defended by opera singer Measha Brueggergosman.

Other books in competition included *The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of*



Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet, by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, which was represented by singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk.

Ottawa city councillor and author Jody Mitic supported *Nostalgia* by M.G. Vassanji, while comedian Candy Palmater backed *The Break* by Katherena Vermette.

This year's show explored

stories about Canada's past, present and future as the country marks its 150th anniversary.

Fifteen Dogs publisher Coach House Books says in celebration of the win, it will make a donation to Frontier College's Indigenous Summer Literacy Camps for First Nation, Metis and Inuit children and youth across Canada.

Earlier this month Alexis won a Yale University Windham-Campbell Prize, which comes with a cheque for \$165,000 US.

In 2015, the Trinidad and Tobago-born, Ottawa-raised writer also won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for *Fifteen Dogs*.

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This food critic finally shows his face

REALITY COMPETITION

Chris Nuttall-Smith gives up anonymity for his TV debut

Chris Nuttall-Smith has ditched his spy-like lifestyle built on disguises, fake names and temporary phone numbers.

As a judge on Top Chef Canada: All-Stars, kicking off Sunday on Food Network Canada, he's making his TV debut and introducing himself to viewers across the country — a stark contrast to the anonymity he worked hard to preserve for the past 10 years as an influential food critic, first with Toronto Life magazine and then the Globe and Mail.

"It was time to start doing something else," said Nuttall-Smith, who is no longer a food critic with the Globe but still writes for various publications, including Air Canada's enRoute magazine.

"That's a lot of going out, a lot of eating, a lot of responsibility and dealing sometimes with restaurateurs who aren't happy. I'd been approached about doing TV quite a few times, but Top Chef in particu-

lar really grabbed me."

Chef and restaurateur Mark McEwan is back as head judge for the fifth instalment of Top Chef Canada. Also returning are all-star chefs from previous seasons, who are competing for a \$100,000 grand prize and kitchen appliances valued at over \$25,000.

Nuttall-Smith and the other judges (Mijune Pak and Janet Zuccarini) are new to the franchise, as is host Eden Grinshpan.

"There were a couple of competitors who I had reviewed their restaurants poorly in the past," admitted Nuttall-Smith. "I think it was hard for them, it was a little awkward for me."

Nuttall-Smith said he loved having a direct connection with the show's chefs he was critiquing and watching their cooking process unfold on the fly.

By contrast, as an anonymous food critic, Nuttall-Smith never looked anyone in the eyes when he was dining out. He didn't want chefs to recognize him or go over to ask how his meal was. He just wanted to be treated like a regular diner and not get special treatment.

To achieve such a goal, he had to resort to trickery: change his hairstyle or eye-

glasses, make reservations under different names and numbers, and get his friends to arrive at a restaurant before him to ensure they'd get a regular table and server.

Those who dined with Nuttall-Smith also had to abide by certain rules — not that they always remembered to stick to them.

"My wife, for instance, God bless her, she's the nicest

woman on Earth, but she was horrible to go out with because she's so indiscreet," he said with a laugh.

"It would usually take about 10 minutes before she'd blurt out my first and last names at the table."

For all his efforts, some restaurateurs were onto him.

"When the Momofuku company opened in Toronto, and this was early on when I was

at the Globe, I heard that they had photos of me that they'd taken with their security system and they'd blown them up and put them in the stairwell, which made me really, really unhappy," said Nuttall-Smith.

He's now enjoying the freedom of being treated as a regular diner and going back to restaurants he loves.

"I'm booking under my own name and it's fraught a little

bit, because some restaurants know you're coming and they wonder what's up," said Nuttall-Smith.

"But if I'm booking under my own name, it's because I just want to go out and have a nice night and a good dinner and I think generally restaurants get that."

"It's nice not to have to skulk around the city."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chris Nuttall-Smith spent the past 10 years as an influential food critic. FOOD NETWORK CANADA

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Sasheer Zamata says her act and voice has become more political and biting, compared to before SNL where she says she was "more cute." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Sasheer Zamata finds her voice in new show

INTERVIEW

Pizza Mind debuts on the Internet platform Seeso

Some believe you haven't really made it in comedy until you've landed a one-hour stand-up special. If that's true, then Saturday Night Live writer and comedian Sasheer Zamata has officially made it.

Zamata, a former member of the Upright Citizens Brigade who plays a mean Beyonce and Rihanna on NBC's SNL, debuts her first special, *Pizza Mind*, on the Internet platform Seeso on Thursday. The Associated Press sat down with the 30-year-old funny woman to ask about her special, her sketch skills and why you shouldn't ask her to "do Beyonce."

You were hired to appear on SNL in 2014 in the wake of criticism of a lack of ethnic

diversity. It was all very public. How did you handle that?

That stressed me out. I kind of just stayed at home a lot. People knew too much. People would text me and be like, 'What's the process like?' 'What's Lorne Michaels like?' I was like, 'This shouldn't even be your business.'

How have the last few years been on SNL?

As a writer and a performer, I'm definitely evolving because I'm learning the language of the show more and learning how to fit my voice into the mould that they've already created.

What about outside the show?

My actual act and voice has become more political and biting. I feel like before SNL I was more cute and maybe I'd beat around the bush. Now I'm very direct.

What was a favourite sketch you wrote this season?

The *Stranger Things* sketch that happened in the fall, where parents come and snatch a character from the woods. That came from a real thought. I was watching *Stranger Things* — I ate it up; immediately I was a fan — but the whole time I was watching, I was like, 'My parents would FLIP if I was in the woods running around looking for monsters.' I was like, 'Where are his parents? Why aren't they concerned?'

How does it feel to have your first special?

It's so cool to be able to put all my work in one spot and have people see what I do best.

What can we expect?

Definitely a collection of stories and material that I've had over the years. Some newer stuff, too. And different mediums and art forms used to express my thoughts in different ways. Like music and songs and little sketches and characters. It's a mix. It's not

just a standard stand-up format. I mean, there's an hour of stand-up, but there's also extra goodies in there, too.

In it, you make fun of strangers who come up and demand impressions from you. Does it really bug you?

I just joke about it. It doesn't bother me that much. But anyone asking someone to do an impression on command or tell a joke on command is asking for it. I'm not a dog.

You rock your natural hair. Have you had any pressure to look a certain way?

I am really glad that no one told me to change my hair. Since I've been doing comedy, my hair has been an Afro. I've never had anyone be like, 'You need to straighten it' or 'Could you wear a wig?' or anything like that and I think that's really cool. I'm glad people get to see me look the way I do because it's good to have representation in different areas and looks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gimbel Eye Centre Calgary has been growing in the past year and has recently added a very well respected doctor to its practice.

Dr. Kevin Warrian is a specialist in retinal and glaucoma eye conditions, and is one of the few ophthalmologists working in these areas in the northwest quadrant of Calgary, according to Calgary's Gimbel Eye Centre chief operating officer Gregg Becker.

"This is great news for our patients because it makes access much easier for people living in the northwest part of the city," Becker says.

Warrian's training has seen him study under leading specialists from Ontario to Florida, and his practice in the medical and surgical retinal area has been growing considerably in Calgary. He also sees patients for general ophthalmology concerns at Gimbel, as well as doing cataract and glaucoma surgery.

One of the many areas Warrian specializes in that is new to the Gimbel Centre is the retinal injection treatment for macular degeneration.

"Patients needing this treatment especially appreciate having a doctor trained in



ISTOCK

this area close to them, since treatments are ongoing for months or even years."

Gimbel continues to offer a full range of other ophthalmology treatments, including Lasik and PRK for vision correction, cataract surgery, and specialized treatments like the new EVO lens and KAMRA surgery to minimize or eliminate reading glasses.



The *chill* of the chase

ADVENTURE

A man's race to see all 46 parks in Canada's 150th year

John Honderich
For Metro Canada



Winter, as it turns out, is a spectacular time to visit Canada's national parks.

You just have to be prepared to navigate through periodic snow blasts, gale force winds, an avalanche warning here and there, and icy roads. But the rewards are nothing short of breathtaking, particularly in the mountains.

And heck, we are the North. Winter is us, part of our soul. Which is why I decided to visit 10 parks this winter as part of my yearlong odyssey to visit (hopefully) all 46 of Canada's national parks and reserves in honour of our country's 150th birthday.

My itinerary took me to four provinces — Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. My criteria were parks that offered either breathtaking vistas, superb cross-country skiing, intriguing animal experiments (bison breeding) or rugged new terrain.

I was never disappointed, except the one time I was not able to track down the bison herd in Elk Island National Park, just outside Edmonton. It turned out the herd had been shepherded to a remote corner of this postage stamp-sized park. So I had to make do with the stuffed baby bison in the visitors' centre.

The Rocky Mountains in winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas. There is just something about mile after mile of towering snow-clad cedar forests encircling snow-capped mountains. This explains why I decided to start my odyssey in the Alberta Rockies on New Year's.

My first national park was Waterton Lakes, nestled among majestic peaks at the U.S. border, a few hours south of Calgary.

And it was en route to Waterton that I learned my first enduring lesson. Travelling to these parks takes you to unexpected sites, hidden gems and famous place names you simply hadn't anticipated.

The trip to Waterton, for example, along Alberta's stunning Highway 22, led me to Pincher Creek, which just happens to be the birthplace of a former assistant as well as Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.



One of the most spectacular routes in the world, Icefields Parkway winds its way through two national parks. ISTOCK



The Rocky Mountains in the winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas.

John Honderich

A few kilometres farther along were signs to Crowsnest Pass, a route synonymous in Canadian history with freight rates and mountain slides. I just had to drive through. Later, I would drive through Kicking Horse Pass in Yoho Park and the highest, Rogers Pass, in Glacier National Park. A trifecta of Canadian railway history.

A different surprise came en route to Bruce Peninsula Park, at the northernmost tip of the Niagara escarpment in Ontario. There, in the Georgian Bay town of Wiarton, was a huge statue in honour of Wiarton Willy, Ontario's foremost predictive groundhog.

And driving back from La Mauricie Park along the shores

of the mighty Saint-Maurice River in Quebec, I happened upon a museum to native son Jean Chrétien in Shawinigan. It contained all the gifts the former prime minister received while in office. It was closed for the season.

When it comes to majesty, there is still nothing that matches the mountain splendour of the Icefields Parkway in Jasper. On a frigid, minus-30-degree, cloudless day, the mountains seemed almost to explode in full glory.

Indeed that feeling would reoccur during several drives through the four contiguous national parks — Jasper, Banff, Yoho and Kootenay — that form the

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

Throw in two nearby B.C. parks — Glacier National Park and Mount Revelstoke National Park — and you are left almost breathless by the winter splendour. So, all in all, a good start to my four-season odyssey.

And if I do manage to visit all 46 parks, Parks Canada says I might even get a lifetime pass!

This is one in a series of columns by John Honderich, chairman of the board of Torstar, as he attempts to visit all of Canada's national parks during the country's 150th birthday year.

MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL CUBA

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5 THINGS TO SEE IN AND AROUND LISBON, PORTUGAL

Portugal is on numerous "where to go" lists for 2017. One of Europe's most affordable destinations, if you visit in the off-season you'll find five-star hotels for \$100 a night. Metered taxis cost only a few euros a trip and elaborate fado club meals averaged about \$60, but ordinary restaurants are much cheaper. In Lisbon, you can afford to live like a Portuguese king. **BETH J. HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



1 Clube de Fado

Have you ever heard a song so tender and soulful it brought you to tears, even though you couldn't understand a word? Fado is a Portuguese folk music tradition that blends the drama and rhythm of flamenco with the sentimentality of a torch song.

At Clube de Fado, a legendary Brazilian singer, Fafa de Belem, along with Cuca Roseta, a popular singer who's part of fado's new generation (pictured standing), surprised crowds with an impromptu performance. It was the Lisbon equivalent of Tina Turner and Alicia Keys appearing unannounced at a New York blues club. Other fado clubs to visit: Sr. Vinho, Casa de Fados and Tasca do Chico.



2 Amalia Rodrigues

By day, we toured Lisbon's Museu do Fado, as well as the home of the late, great fado singer Amalia Rodrigues (pictured here in a portrait hanging in her home). She's considered Portugal's finest singer of fado, a soulful, melancholy genre of Portuguese folk music. They are songs of love, loss and longing, rooted in Portugal's seafaring culture, which for centuries has bid farewell to sailors, not knowing when or whether they'd return.

Guided tours of the house she lived in offer an intimate look at her life, including exhibits of her costumes.



3 Tower of Belem

A stunning 16th-century fort on the banks of the Tagus River, the Tower of Belem is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Lisbon's most famous landmarks. The picturesque fortress dates to the 16th century when Portuguese explorers sailed the globe, establishing a colonial empire that stretched from Asia to Africa to South America.

Another landmark on the Tagus is the Monument to the Discoveries, a stone ship erected in the 20th century to memorialize the Age of Exploration.



4 National Coach Museum

The National Coach Museum displays gilded, velvet-lined coaches used by royalty. An 18th Century coach on display (pictured) was ordered by Austria's Emperor Joseph I for the wedding of his sister Ana with Portuguese King Joao V. The museum's collection provides a window on how kings and queens got from place to place.

5 Sintra Palace

Get a sense of how real kings lived at the magnificent Palace of Sintra, 26 kilometres from Lisbon, one of several places we visited on a Gray Line tour. The palace served as a home to Portuguese royalty for centuries. The ornate walls and ceilings are decorated with intricate tilework and paintings.

My favourite spot amid the various tiled rooms and treasures was a ceiling decorated with 136 magpies, symbolizing a king's flirtation with one of the queen's 136 ladies-in-waiting, some dating to the 1600s.



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NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Nick Perry in the Antarctic



The Southern Lights are seen over the Southern Ocean near Antarctica from a chartered plane Friday, March 24, 2017. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Glimpse of the Southern Lights worth the round-trip

They took an eight-hour flight just to look out the airplane's window, but it was an extraordinary view.

A charter plane that left Dunedin, New Zealand, late Thursday flew close to the Antarctic Circle to give the eager passengers an up-close look at the Aurora Australis, or Southern Lights.

Otago Museum Director Ian Griffin came up with the idea. An astronomer, Griffin said he was inspired after seeing the Southern Lights while flying as a guest on a NASA observatory plane.

He says the 134 seats on the chartered Boeing 767 sold out within five days and one man travelled from Spain for the trip. He says he could have filled the plane several times over, although they were only selling window seats and seats immediately adjacent, leaving the middle of the aircraft empty.

"I thought it was abso-

lutely brilliant," Griffin said. "We were right under it. There were beautiful streamers, auroral streamers. This green-colored stuff that moves quickly, it looks like you're looking into a green, streaky river."

Passenger Nick Wong said he'd stumbled upon the idea of the flight last year through social media and decided to sign up. "I didn't think we would actually see such a spectacular display, even by the naked eye," he said. "It was really great to be a part of an adventure with like-minded people who were equally or more excited at viewing this phenomena as I was."

Wong, a cancer research scientist, said he loves going camping and looking at the stars, something he found more stunning in New Zealand after moving from Australia three years ago.

Wong said he didn't have any spare leave and was

back at work giving a presentation on Friday after a night without sleep. He said viewing the Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, remained on his bucket list.

The Northern Lights are more famous in part because the northern polar region has more inhabited land. But the Southern Lights put on a similar show. Both are caused by particles from the sun interacting with the Earth's magnetic field.

Griffin said the plane travelled to more than 60 degrees latitude south and offered about five hours viewing time. He said he chose a day close to the equinox and when the moon phase would allow maximum darkness.

One seat cost about \$1,800 or double that for business class.

Griffin said he's thinking about another trip next year. Because the Boeing 767 is being decommissioned and the trip proved so popular, he said he may seek a larger jet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Family resorts pamper parents too

VACATION

It can be easier to unwind when children's needs are cared for

Eva Salinas
For Metro Canada



There's no doubt that our children change us. From the day they are born, we don't sleep, eat, or work quite the same again. Little fingers under the bathroom door mean not even a trip to the toilet will ever be like it was before.

For me, the most symbolic change was the way I would travel. Being tethered to a little one meant my days of spontaneous or extended backpacking trips were over (or at least greatly postponed). For someone who spent her entire 20s moving from city to city, continent to continent, sleeping under stars in San Sebastian or in a tent in the Atacama desert, this was big.

Thankfully, memories from the road — and new ones in the



It was important for me to give my kid a taste of the country too. EVA SALINAS/FOR METRO CANADA

backyard — fill the void.

But when the opportunity came recently to go on a trip with my now-five-year-old son, I jumped on it. It would be equally symbolic of my new life — a few days at Club Med Ixtapa Pacific, on Mexico's West coast.

I had somehow avoided all-inclusive vacations until this trip. They were never appealing to me — the all-day drinking, the

crowds of tourists, my dollars leaving the country by way of a foreign company.

But when you're a single parent in need of a break and desperate for new horizons, you take what you can get. And when what you can get turns out to be the cream of the all-inclusive crop, you feel very grateful you are able to travel at all.

Club Med's Ixtapa Pacific loca-

tion was a hot, decadent dream. For better or worse, it both met my resort expectations and exceeded them — the buffets were excessive but to die for; the entertainment shows were over-the-top and cheesy but impressive (the acrobatics had me mesmerized); the long list of daily options — taking breakfast by the ocean, swimming in the pool, getting a massage, trying the trapeze, etc.

— felt incredibly self-indulgent.

There were no drunken spring break scenes. The beach was public, hosting tourists and Mexicans alike. The day-long kids clubs, where my son could go to swim, play, try the trampoline, take a Mexican cooking class and do tie-dyeing, among a million other things, were very welcome.

I quickly realized however that I didn't have to leave behind my old self completely. So we ventured outside the resort to wander in nearby Zihuatanejo, where you can eat quesadillas at a lunch counter in the market or count fallen coconuts in between the fishing boats on the beach. And we took one of the Club's excursions to Troncones, where participating in the turtle rescue operation — helping them hatch and make it safely into the water — was a trip highlight.

And while I had assumed I would use the babysitting service more often, in the end I spent much more of each day with my son than expected. That time on the beach with him — a long way from work, a messy house, our scheduled lives — was the best part of all, and what I have always loved about travelling in the first place.

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Family-friendly resorts have everything you may need, from cribs to strollers to eager staff willing to help.

Try something new

Whether a treatment at the spa (usually an additional cost) or one of the sports on offer, such as paddle boarding or sailing (often included).

Choose wisely

A family-oriented resort will make sure kids have fun. If illness or food is a concern, spend more to ensure the club places emphasis on the quality of meals.

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TRAVEL NOTES

NOLA tourism up

A new study says New Orleans has broken a tourism record set before Hurricane Katrina, with nearly 10.5 million visitors in 2016. The record had stood at 10.1 million since 2004, the year before the hurricane struck. University of New Orleans' Hospitality Research Center says last year's visitors spent \$7.41 billion — 51 per cent more than in 2004, and 5.1 per cent above the spending record set in 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Early launch for Maid of the Mist

The Maid of the Mist tour boats at Niagara Falls are being readied for their earliest launch ever. The famed boats that bring passengers from the New York shore to the base of the falls in the lower Niagara River will open the 2017 season on Saturday.

A similar attraction, operated by Hornblower, launches from the Canadian shore the same day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TOP 150 FOR 150

CELEBRATING CANADA'S GIFTS TO THE WORLD

Canadian terror started in 3D

THE MASK

Magic Mystic Masks worn for Canada's first horror film

Sean Plummer

Canada's horror movie history didn't start with David Cronenberg. That honour belongs to *The Mask* (1961).

A low-budget, high-concept psychological thriller, it was not only our first horror film but the first Canadian film to be widely distributed by an American studio — and the first to be shot (partially) in 3D.

The surreal story follows a psychiatrist who finds an ancient mask that unleashes his inner demons whenever he puts it on — similar to the plot of Jim Carrey's 1994 hit, also called *The Mask*.

Moviegoers would know to put on their 3D glasses (called "Magic Mystic Masks") whenever a voice on screen intoned: "Put the mask on... now!"

A modest success, *The Mask* was re-released as *Eyes of Hell* in the early '70s and broadcast on Canadian TV in the early '80 during a brief resurgence of the 3D craze.

It has spawned a cult fanbase, and the Toronto International Film Festival, along with the 3D Archive, have recently restored *The Mask* to its original glory.



Still from *The Mask (Eyes of Hell)*, considered to be the first feature-length Canadian horror movie and also the first feature-length 3D film made in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

World's largest perogy

Glendon, Alberta, located north of St. Paul, unveiled its centerpiece — a giant perogy statue, complete with fork — back in 1993.

Standing 8.2 metres tall and weighing nearly 3,000, the perogy is one of several odd roadside sculptures found in Canada's western provinces.

Apparently the fork was added after passersby confused the perogy for a cow pie.

SEAN PLUMMER



THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Canadian Potato Museum. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Now that's a big spud!

Love your spuds? Then head to the town of O'Leary, on Prince Edward Island's west side, to visit the Canadian Potato Museum.

Open mid-May to October and surrounded by potato fields, the museum, which

was opened in 1993, features a variety of potato farming implements and machines.

It offers tours and has a giant potato sculpture outside its doors so you take a selfie next to your favourite carb.

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FIGURE SKATING

Chan sits in third after short program

Canada's Patrick Chan made his one quadruple jump, a big one, at the Hartwell Arena in Helsinki.

The three-time world champion sat third after Thursday's men's short program at the world figure skating championships, planting himself in podium contention with the textbook skills and gorgeous execution that once made him the world's best.



Patrick Chan
GETTY IMAGES

"I was trying to stick to my plan," Chan said.

"My whole goal this year was to try and challenge myself just to stay in my own world and know that I belong in this group of men, and not get too discouraged."

Defending champion Javier Fernandez of Spain scored 109.05 to win the short program, while Japan's Shoma Uno (104.86) was second. Each had a pair of clean quads.

Canada's Eric Radford and partner Meagan Duhamel held on to finish seventh in pairs at the world figure skating championships. The two-time world champs finished with 206.06 points for their shaky program.

Canada's Lubov Ilyushechkina and Dylan Moscovitch finished sixth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada, Gushue one of worlds favourites

CURLING

Newfoundland skip, Gallant, Nichols, Walker all decorated

Brad Gushue and his teammates have plenty of experience wearing the Maple Leaf even though they're set to make their first appearance at the world men's curling championship.

Gushue and third Mark Nichols won Olympic gold at the Turin Games in 2006, five years after winning a world junior title together. Second Brett Gallant skipped Canada to world junior silver in 2009 and lead Geoff Walker played third on the national team skipped by Charley Thomas that won world junior gold in 2006.

The foursome from St. John's will be podium favourites when the 2017 world men's play-downs begin Saturday at the Northlands Coliseum. The Brier champions are joined by coach Jules Owchar, team leader Rick Lang and alternate Tom Sallows.

"Lots of experience with in the room," Gushue said. "I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us."

Earlier this month, Gushue edged Kevin Koe 7-6 to win the national men's title for the first time in 14 tries. He became the first Newfoundland skip to



Brad Gushue, left, Mark Nichols, Brett Gallant and Geoff Walker receive the Brier Tankard after winning the men's national championship on March 12. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

hoist the Brier Tankard since Jack MacDuff in 1976.

Gushue's team came through despite the pressure and distractions that came with playing in their hometown.

They also played hurt as Gushue has been dealing with a hip/groin issue and Walker's sweeping abilities were hampered by a right shoulder injury.

"To win this one, it doesn't

seem to make much sense," Gushue said. "I think it really showed that our team has a lot of grit and determination."

The top-ranked team will look to build on that success in Edmonton. Sweden's Niklas Edin, Switzerland's Peter de Cruz and Scotland's David Murdoch are also expected to contend for podium spots.

Edin, who won Olympic bronze at the 2014 Sochi

"Lots of experience in the room. I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us. Brad Gushue

Games, won world titles in 2013 and 2015. De Cruz won a world junior title in 2010 while Murdoch took Olympic silver in 2014 and is a two-time world men's champion ('06, '09).

The 12-team field also includes American John Shuster, China's Rui Liu, Germany's Alexander Baumann, Italy's Joel Retornaz, Japan's Yusuke Morozumi, Jaap Van Dorp of the Netherlands, Norway's Steffen Walstad and Russia's Alexey Stukalskiy.

"I feel like our team is definitely one of the favourites going in," Gushue said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

China to host first NHL games during pre-season

The NHL will play its first games in China this fall.

The league announced Thursday that the Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks will meet in two pre-season matches, Sept. 21 in Shanghai and Sept. 23 in Beijing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Bathroom bill' deal key to N. Carolina hosting events

Basketball-mad North Carolina is hoping its move to roll back its "bathroom bill" will help it avoid another costly hit when the NCAA selects four years of championship sites for a variety of sports.

College athletics' governing body said that it is deciding this week on locations for tournaments through the spring of 2022 and that it wouldn't award any to North Carolina if the law known as House Bill 2 was still on the books.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE Saturday at Glendale, Ariz.

■ Gonzaga vs. South Carolina, 6:09 p.m.

■ North Carolina vs. Oregon, 8:49 p.m.

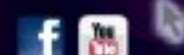
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Oregon player Dillon Brooks of Mississauga, Ont. GETTY IMAGES



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Team Canada 'on a mission'

HOCKEY

U.S. 'energized' heading into women's world championship

Canada will open the women's world hockey championship against a U.S. team either drained from the drama of recent days or empowered by winning concessions from their own federation.

Regardless, the Canadians are pleased their archrivals will be on the ice with them Friday in Plymouth, Mich. The U.S. women had threatened to boycott the tournament unless they received more financial support from USA Hockey.

"We wanted them here," Canadian forward Haley Irwin said. "At a world championship, you want the best teams to be here to compete against and compete for a gold medal."

The American women's campaign, and the support they received from tennis legend Billie Jean King to the NHL Players' Association to U.S. senators, has created a buzz around the host

team and defending champions. "Completely energized," U.S. captain Meghan Duggan declared. "We're going to use all that momentum we kind of built up, really just channel it in to energy for the start of the tournament."

The players and USA Hockey came to an agreement Tuesday just in time for the top American players to pursue a fourth straight women's world title.



There's a lot of talent right across the spectrum and it can go either way.

Laura Schuler,
Canada's head coach

The Americans held just their second practice as a team Thursday, compared to the Canadians who have already played two exhibition games during their week-long training camp.

Canada and the U.S. have met in the final of every women's world championship final dating back to the first one in 1990.

Alex Carpenter scored the overtime winner for the U.S. in a 1-0 win last year in Kamloops, B.C. The Americans have won six of the last seven, with Canada's last gold in 2012 in Burlington, Vt.

"It's been a while since we won that world championship and I think we're on a mission right now," said Canadian captain Marie-Philip Poulin.

"We want to bring it back to Canada. We know it's going to be hard."

Canada is 3-7 versus the U.S. since beating them in an overtime thriller for Olympic gold in 2014. Canada won their two most recent meetings, by scores of 5-3 and 3-2 in December's exhibition series.

Canada, the U.S., Finland and Russia are in a pool of the top four countries in the world. Sweden, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany are in the other pool.

The two teams with the best records in Canada's pool get byes to the semifinals. The other two play quarter-finals against the top two teams emerging from the other pool. The medal games are April 7. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Marie-Philip Poulin scored the overtime winner in Canada's gold-medal victory over the U.S. at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GOLF IN BRIEF

Fowler off to a hot start at Houston Open

Rickie Fowler shot an 8-under 64 for a one-shot lead over Sung Kang after the first round of the Houston Open on Thursday.

Fowler had his best round in six appearances at the tournament, topping a previous low score of 68.

Fowler won last month at the Honda Classic and is trying to keep momentum going into the Masters next week. The Honda Classic win snapped a 13-month, 25-start drought for Fowler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Icher takes early lead at windy LPGA Tour major

France's Karine Icher shot a 5-under 67 to take an early lead before high winds shortened the opening day of the ANA Inspiration on Thursday in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Half of the field in the LPGA Tour's first major of the year was still on the course when wild winds halted to play. The first round will resume Friday morning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Players to keep an eye on in AL East

The regular season officially kicks off Sunday afternoon when the Tampa Bay Rays host the New York Yankees, one of three games on the day.

Staying in the American League East, here are five players that could be on the cusp of superstardom.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DYLAN BUNDY SP Baltimore Orioles

Blue Jays fans will get an early look at the right-hander, who is set to pitch against lefty J.A. Happ on Wednesday. Bundy is an injury-prone former top prospect who underwent Tommy John surgery in 2013. He finally proved his worth in the Orioles' bullpen last season, eventually earning a spot in the rotation and finishing with a 10-6 record and a 4.02 ERA.

Andrew Benintendi
GETTY IMAGES

ANDREW BENINTENDI OF Boston Red Sox

Spoiler alert for those who haven't read this year's top 100 prospects lists: the Red Sox outfielder is ranked No. 1 by both Baseball America and MLB Pipeline.com. Benintendi earned a call-up with Boston in August after batting .312/.378/.532 in 97 games with Class-A Salem and Double-A Portland. He had a .295 average and a .359 on-base percentage in 34 big-league games last season.

GREG BIRD 1B New York Yankees

When Alex Rodriguez compares you to Yankees legend Don Mattingly people take notice. The catcher-turned-first-baseman, who has just one year of major-league experience under his belt, had already been lighting it up in the Grapefruit League, posting some of the hottest spring training's numbers out there.

Blake Snell
GETTY IMAGES

BLAKE SNELL SP Tampa Bay Rays

The 24-year-old struck out 98 batters in 89 innings last year as a rookie, earning himself a 6-8 record with a 3.54 ERA. Some thought last season would be Snell's breakout year, but the Rays handled him with care. This year, penciled in at fourth in the rotation, the chance is truly there.

DEVON TRAVIS 2B Toronto Blue Jays

For much of spring training, Travis was an early season question mark thanks to off-season knee surgery. But with the second baseman looking healthy, fans can dare to dream. Travis has 19 home runs and 85 RBIs in 627 plate appearances, not to mention a team-leading .300 average in 2016.

Devon Travis
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Decadent Skillet S'mores



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



Who needs a campfire when you can whip up s'mores in your kitchen? Dare we say they best their summer competition?

Ready in 15 minutes

Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 bags of dark chocolate chips
- 17 marshmallows, cut in half
- 1 box of graham crackers

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. In a 9-inch, ovenproof skillet, pour the chocolate chips in an even layer across the bottom. Arrange the marshmallow halves along the top, covering all the chips.
3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until marshmallows are lightly browned and chocolate is melted. Be careful not to over bake the chocolate.
4. Serve with stacks of graham crackers to dip and enjoy.

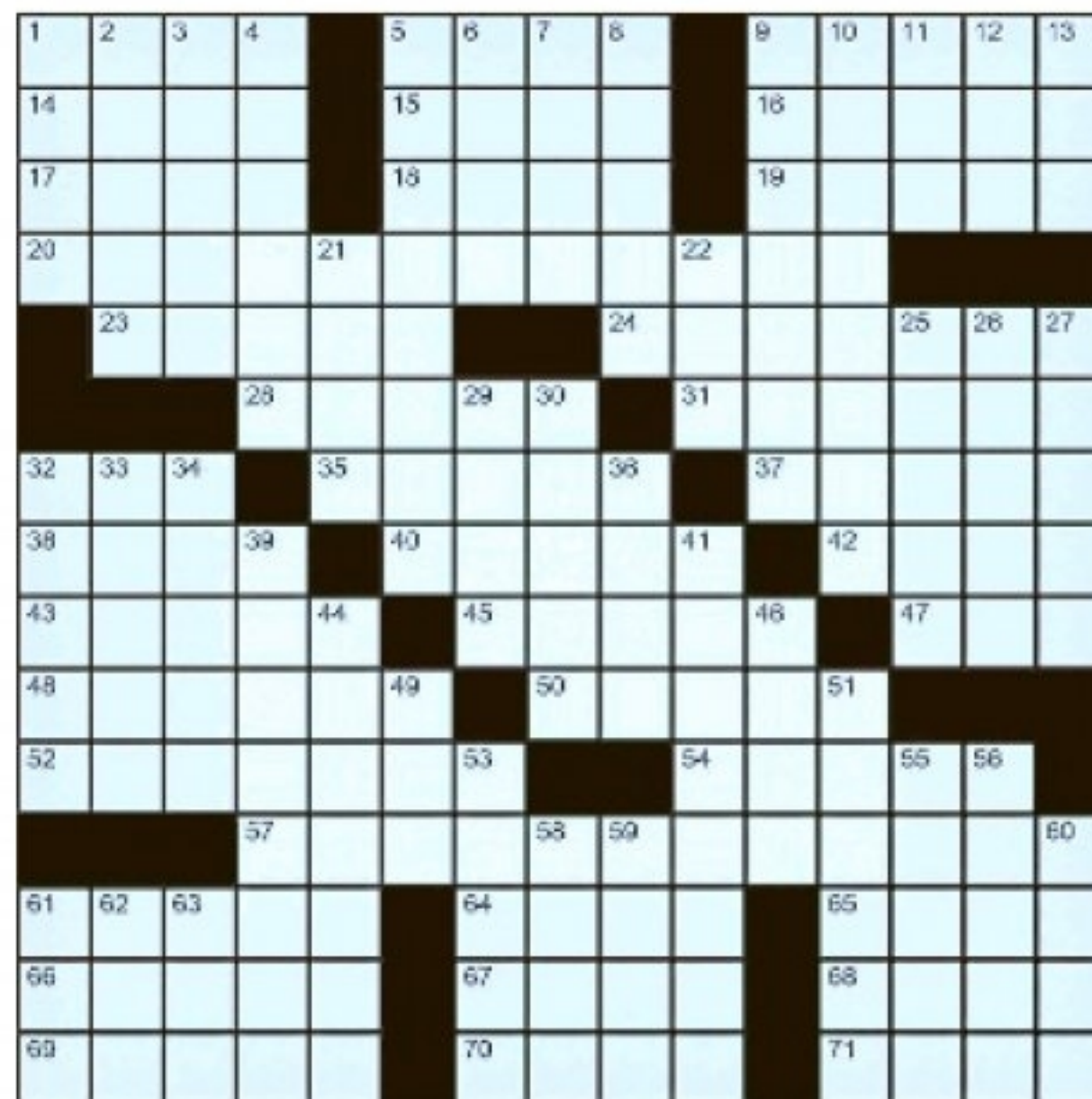
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "You ___ Meant for Me" by Jewel
5. British raincoats, fun-style
9. Short romance
14. Figure skating jump
15. Aid and ___
16. "American Pie" embankment
17. Aggravate
18. Former musical comedy on FOX
19. Up to now: 2 wds.
20. Performance centre in Montreal: 3 mots
23. Showbiz news show hosted by Mario Lopez
24. ___ Party of Canada
28. River sediments
31. Switzerland city
32. Sugar amt.
35. Roman goddess of agriculture
37. Wallet item, ___ card
38. Gets by, just barely
40. One with a pad and paper
42. Food Network creation
43. Sacred temple practices
45. Ornamental edging of loops
47. Anonymous surname
48. Angel
50. Taboos
52. "Cool It Now" by New ___
54. "Boot Boot"
57. 'B' of CBC
61. Sleeping prob-



- lem
64. Jam-in together
65. "Hop ___!" (Get moving)
66. Pop into the freezer
67. Uncommon
68. Root that's edible
69. Places at a slant

70. ___ and flows
71. Robin Colcord's portrayal on "Cheers", Roger ___

DOWN

1. ___ speed, as on "Star Trek"
2. Banish

3. Put up your feet and stay awhile
4. Chooses a candidate
5. Gulf of St. Lawrence archipelago, ___ Islands
6. "Obtain" suffix
7. So-so grades
8. Pilfer

9. ___ truck
10. Diminished
11. "Poison ___" by The Coasters
12. Maiden name word preceder
13. Become
21. Mr. Stoltz of movies
22. Tractor trailer

25. Raise one's paddle at the auction another time
26. Notice/warning, in Spain
27. Workshop machine
29. French for 'too much'
30. ___ stone (Unchangeable)
32. Succinct
33. Went to Whistler
34. Agar-holding lab dish
36. Like dry Spanish wine
39. Car safety device
41. Glace Bay, Nova Scotia born stand-up comedian: 2 wds.
44. Coils
46. Pump parts
49. Which person, wondered the owl?
51. Jet-___ (World traveller)
53. Mother-of-pearl
55. ___ Janeiro
56. Like a nasty comment
58. Dullsville
59. Atkins = Low-___ diet
60. Ronny & The Daytonas cars
61. Take steps
62. ___ Beta Kappa
63. Naught

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You're full of big ideas today because you're in such a positive frame of mind. Enjoy discussions with siblings, neighbors and relatives. (They will be impressed.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Business and commerce are favoured today, because you are in a moneymaking frame of mind. Furthermore, you're not afraid to entertain ambitious ideas. Good stuff!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today the Moon is in your sign and you feel content and happy. It's a good day for business. It's also a good day to enjoy family activities at home.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will prefer to work behind the scenes or perhaps alone. It's also a good day to research and look for answers to old problems.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Relationships with friends and group members will be upbeat and positive today. Make an effort to be sociable and friendly, because you are the one who will get a pleasant payoff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today. In fact, work-related travel or talking to people from other cultures is likely for some of you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do something different today. Shake up your routine. You have an urge for adventure and you also want to learn something new. Go someplace you have never been before

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to discuss shared property and issues related to insurance, wills, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others. Things will likely go in your favor.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires some tolerance, patience and co-operation.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do something to get better organized today. Make your workstation or where you live a bit neater. Tidy things up.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a playful, fun-loving day. It's also a good date day. Plan to have fun activities with children, friends and loved ones. Sporting events particularly will appeal.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You might want to cocoon at home today and just relax. Today pleasure appeals more than work — that's for sure. Take some time off just for yourself, because you deserve it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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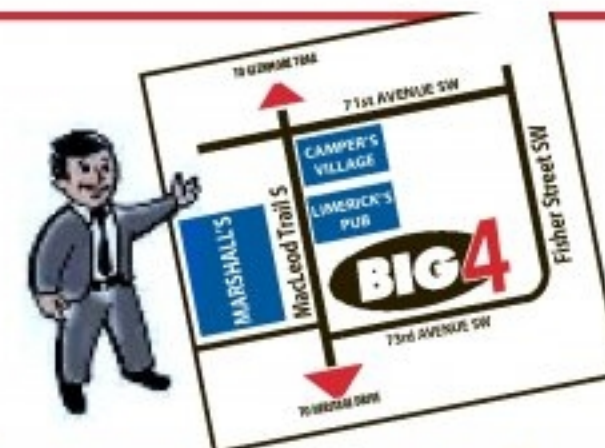
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